

## Grade quits as head of ACC

Lord Grade, the flamboyant showbusiness tycoon, has resigned as head of Associated Communications Corporation, the film and property empire he built over 25 years. Mr Robert Holmes a Court, an Australian financier, who has made a £36m bid for the company, takes over as chairman. All the other ACC directors, except Sir Max Ackland who is "indisposed", have given undertakings to resign. They will receive no compensation. Page 11 and back page

## Kitson's aunt found dead

Mrs Allison Joan Weinberg, aged 52, the aunt of Mr Steven Kitson, held for five days by South African police, has been found dead in her flat in central Johannesburg. The police are treating the case as murder. Mrs Weinberg helped to arrange Mr Kitson's visit to his jailed father. Page 4

## Treasury aims for 7pc inflation

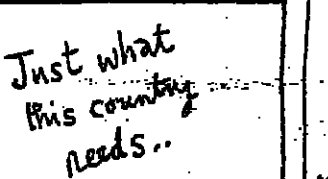
The Treasury is planning new monetary growth targets based on hopes that inflation will fall to 7 per cent next year and that output will grow to 2 per cent. Meanwhile, a threatened miners' strike and the troubles on the railways has hit the pound, which fell for the sixth consecutive day to close in London at \$1.8630. Page 11

## England Test hopes fade

England failed to take a wicket in the fifth Test at Madras yesterday and any hope of a victory was frustrated by Sharma and Viswanath, both of whom scored centuries. An entertaining day's cricket was marred by some boorish behaviour from Botham. Page 15

## Contempt case verdict soon

Judgment is expected soon in the case of Jack Lunn, a Fleet Street journalist, charged with contempt of court for refusing to identify the source for a report he wrote exposing corruption and illegality at Ladbroke casinos. Page 2



## Highs and lows for climbers

There is growing evidence that Diamox, a drug commonly used to treat glaucoma, can combat mountain sickness. One researcher says it "knocks 5,000ft off the height of Everest". The drug, made from acetazolamide, thought to stimulate the production of body acids, has been tested by Lord Hunt. Page 3

## Ticket boost

A total of 160,000 tickets, double the original number for the World Cup football finals this summer have been allocated for sale in Britain, in an attempt to reduce the number of fans travelling to Spain without tickets.

## Haughey shuffle

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's Opposition leader, has appointed Dr Martin O'Donoghue as Fianna Fail spokesman on finance. Mr Brian Lenihan moves from the shadow foreign affairs post to take charge of party policy. Mr George Colley remains deputy party leader.

## Hoxha 'is alive'

Albanian diplomats have denied that Mr Enver Hoxha, the party leader, had been killed in revenge for the death last month of Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Prime Minister. Page 4

## Leader page 9

Letters: On the rail strike, from Sir Richard Dobson, and Mr L. A. Jackson; rape, from Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, and Mr V. de Lanerolle.

## Leading Articles: Nationalized industries; Greece; Rape

Features, page 8

## The Soviet Union and Poland: David Watt on why the Yalta agreement on spheres of influence should not confuse the issue

Obituary, page 10

Sir John Penrycuick, Dr Hugh Fawcett

# Rail dispute widens with 3% offer to NUR

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail last night took a gamble and agreed to offer a 3 per cent pay increase to its biggest union while continuing to deny a similar payment to train drivers who returned to work this morning after a two-day strike.

The management took the risk of drawing the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) into an intensification of the dispute. The public will already be without trains on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday next week as Aslef continues its selective strikes to secure the 3 per cent payment.

BR offered the 3 per cent rise to the 1,500 members of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), who are train drivers. Mr Russell Tuck, NUR senior assistant general secretary, said emphatically last night that the 3 per cent was being paid with no productivity strings.

The offer has angered Aslef, whose general secretary, Mr Ray Buckton, said: "BR's obvious intention is to drive a wedge between the unions. Surely the country will realize now that what I have been saying all along that productivity should be separate from pay was true."

Leaders of Aslef and the NUR met last night to discuss BR's latest move and the union executives will meet separately tomorrow to complete their response. It is likely that the NUR executive will accept the offer for its footplate men but Aslef's response could be to threaten a widening of the dispute.

After their meeting, Mr Tuck and Mr Buckton emphasized the closeness of the two unions and said that Aslef would not be isolated by the BR action.

The management said the payment was being offered to the NUR because it had agreed to flexible rostering on behalf of most of its members and had indicated its willingness to negotiate new rostering for its drivers.

A BR spokesman denied that the intention was to split the unions, but it is thought that BR was trying to weaken Aslef's case for opposing flexible rostering, which entails introducing seven to nine hour shifts to replace the standard eight-hour working day.

In the latest NUR newsletter, Mr Sydney Weighell, the union's general secretary, says that the serious situation has been brought about entirely by the stance adopted by Aslef.

He believes flexible rostering could bring benefits for rail-roads workers and says that it is not sufficient to continue to argue, as Aslef has done, that because the eight-hour day has existed since 1919, it is incapable of being altered.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, meets his board this morning to discuss the dispute. One option they face is shutting the railway network completely because they would not be able to guarantee a reliable service with the knock-on effects from the Aslef strikes.

The NUR has insisted that the 3 per cent should be paid to its drivers and would probably have instructed the drivers to join the Aslef strikes if BR had not offered the 3 per cent.

BR said yesterday that it was circulating examples of flexible rostering to staff. It claimed that examples of rosters being circulated by Aslef were not relevant to the dispute, being based on variations from six to 10 hours a day. The proposals BR wanted to discuss are based on variations from seven to nine hours a day.

## Delays for rail travellers in favour of freight

By Staff Reporters

Rail passengers were warned to expect delays and cancellations to services in most regions today as British Rail struggles to get back to normal after the two-day stoppage caused by the train drivers' strike.

British Rail is placing emphasis on providing industry with essential supplies. The frequency of most Inter-City services is being reduced, particularly to and from London, to free locomotives for more heating oil, coal and essential freight for industry. There will be no sleeping accommodation on night trains because coaches are not in the right position.

British Rail has also suspended all seat reservations for the time being. It said that if the threat by the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) to ban Sunday work goes ahead there will be few rail services running after 10pm on Sunday and no trains will run from midnight on Saturday until the following Monday.

The special arrangements being made today to help to move industrial freight comes after the appeal last weekend by Sir Peter Parker, British Rail's chairman, to its 30 biggest freight customers to stay loyal to the service.



Professor Cyril Chantler at Guy's Hospital, London, yesterday with Mark Jarvis (left) aged two, one of eleven children under five years old who were successfully given kidney transplants last year. Report, page 3.

## Mother of Ripper victim wins fight

From Our Correspondent

Leeds

The mother of the Yorkshire Ripper's youngest victim has won her fight to make him pay damages. In a case which has made legal history, Mrs Irene MacDonald, aged 57, is suing Peter Sutcliffe for damages for the loss of her daughter and her husband.

Yesterday she was told that a county court registrar in Leeds had ruled earlier this week that Sutcliffe was liable for damages.

Mrs MacDonald's daughter Jane, aged 16, was murdered as she walked to her home in Scott Hall Road, Leeds, through a red light area in June, 1977. Two years later, her father, Wilfred, aged 60, died of a broken heart. He never recovered from the shock of her death.

Mr William Tate, the MacDonalds' solicitor, said yesterday: "It has now been established that Sutcliffe must pay damages to the family. The amount will be decided later this year in the High Court. We are delighted at the result. It opens the door to claims from relatives of his other victims."

The Leeds County Court hearing before Mr Registrar Hebbert was held in chambers on Monday.

The application for summary judgment in respect of liability was opposed by lawyers acting for Sutcliffe. The hearing, which lasted all the day, is expected to be the first of a series before any amount of damages is fixed.

When Sutcliffe was asked at the trial about Jane's murder and the fact that she was not a prostitute, he said: "I felt absolutely shattered mentally. I felt terrible and full of remorse." He said he took a fortnight to get over the killing and "get back to normal" (the Press Association reports).

## Weather hampers plane salvage after Washington crash

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 14

ON PAGE SIX

### Hero of Flight 90 Arctic snow to blame How it happened

It could take between three days and two weeks to salvage the Air Florida 737 jet which crashed into a bridge packed with commuter traffic shortly after take off from Washington National Airport yesterday afternoon.

Mr Francis McAdams, who is in charge of the National Transportation Safety Board team investigating the crash, which took 75 lives, said this afternoon that poor weather conditions and the fact that the wreckage was submerged in the icy Potomac River between two bridges was making salvage work extremely difficult.

Seventy-two bodies remained entombed today in the wreckage of the aircraft, which crashed in near blizzard conditions less than a minute after take off on its way to Tampa in Florida.

Nine bodies were recovered last night — four passengers, one crew member and the body of a person who was on the 14th Street bridge connecting central Washington with Virginia when it was struck by the plane.

Two more bodies were found floating amid the ice floes of the Potomac this morning. They were of a woman and a baby. Both were frozen stiff. The rest of the victims remained trapped in the fuselage at the bottom of the river, which is 25 feet deep.

Air Florida announced today that 79 people had been on board its flight. No 30-74 passengers and five crew. This was one less than originally estimated because it was found that one passenger had been listed under two names.

Six Navy and Coastguard divers spent much of today trying to establish the exact location and condition of the wreckage in the dark and near freezing water.

As a first step the divers were ordered to make a sketch of the plane's position, Mr McAdams said. "We do not know how badly the plane has been broken up. Therefore the sketch is needed before we can begin lifting work."

After inspecting the crash site Mr McAdams said that he did not know whether it would be possible to get the bodies of the victims out by lifting the fuselage intact or whether they would have to be cut out and the wreckage removed later.

A large crane was brought on to the bridge today to prepare for lifting, but Mr McAdams cautioned that if the fuselage was intact it would be very heavy.

"It will be a very difficult operation," he said. "We do not believe we will get it up today or possibly tomorrow or even a bit later." He added that the chance of the salvage operation lasting two weeks was an outside estimate.

The divers have begun searching for the flight data and voice recorders which it is hoped will provide the investigators with the first clues as to why the disaster happened. The "black box" which is in fact an orange striped container — is situated in the plane's tail, the tip of which was just visible above the surface of the river.

An eerie quiet hung over the scene of the disaster today. Every so often the freezing air crackled to the sound of police loudspeaker barking instructions to clear the way for salvage vehicles.

The salvage operation was being coordinated by Washington's commissioner of police and comprised representatives from the Coastguard, Navy, Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Aviation Administration. The Army began erecting a pontoon bridge this afternoon to provide access to a salvage barge in the river.

Mr McAdams said consideration was being given to the use of flotation devices to raise the wreckage.

Mr McAdams warned against speculating at this stage, when the plane is still in the water. "I have no idea what went wrong," he announced that a five member board of inquiry had been set up to find out causes of the crash. The first air National Airport in almost 30 years. He said it could take up to six months for the investigation to be completed.

Although the cause of the accident is still unknown evidence given by eyewitnesses and one of the survivors indicates that the plane suffered a loss of power immediately before its tail hit the bridge and it plunged into the river.

## Facade of peaceful Poznan crumbles

From Roger Boyes  
Poznan, Jan 14

The bird-blemished statue of Hygieia, the Greek goddess of health, has pride of place in one of Poznan's medieval squares, a resplendent sobriety, orderliness and moderation that has characterized this western Polish city throughout its history.

Poznan was, in short, the ideal place to take some 30 foreign correspondents on their first trip outside Warsaw since the declaration of martial law a month ago. The city, it was said, was one of the most tranquil, normal, peaceful spots in the country and would thus provide a pleasant contrast to the bleakness of the military rule.

Instead, the military council's news management machine received a nasty jolt. First, the regional head, the Voivod, was cross-examined with particular intensity about internment, the collapse of the party and other disastrous subjects. Then, the journalists were ferried to the Cegielski engine factory which, on the surface at least, has been quiescent since being at the centre of the Poznan uprising in 1956.

But instead of clean-cut figures explaining how many production records were being broken for socialism, little groups of Solidarity members surrounded the correspondents on the shopfloor and spilt the beans: passive resistance at the factory meant that it was working at between 30 and 40 per cent of capacity in some sections. The workers were biding their time, waiting for the reemergence of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader. A few were still sporting Solidarity badges.

But there was worse to come. The Foreign Ministry officials shepherding the journalists produced, at the correspondents' request, the former Solidarity chief of the region, Mr Zdzislaw Rozwalak, the most senior member of the Solidarity movement in the region. He was publicly reprimanded for accepting the necessity of martial law.

His disavowal of the union had been widely publicized by the Polish newspapers and he had even been tipped as the leader of a reconstituted Solidarity, a conformist non-political organization that would be the instrument of government policy.

However, Mr Rozwalak chose this moment to announce that he had been forced by security authorities to sign his renunciation of the union under threat of internment, that he had made a mistake and that the Government had publicized his statement without his consent. The Foreign Ministry, however, refused to ease from front to foot.

A 10-minute visit to the immaculate sixteenth century Market Square, all cobbles and pigeons, brought the information from a passer-by that 500 people had staged a demonstration against internment after Mass was sung at the church. That was the day when Mr Jozef Glomp, the Polish Prime Minister, in a scorching speech criticized internment.

Thus within a six-hour guided expedition outside Warsaw, a picture emerged that was totally at variance with that presented by the official image-makers, and this in a city, Poland's fifth largest, that had been selected for its exemplary calm.

Resistance is one of resistance, not open but determined, and of a consciousness of strength. The Solidarity members in a factory explained that they had gathered there on the day after the declaration of martial law and had demanded the release of one of their number, Mr Bogdan Cisk. The factory management and the voivod negotiated with the workers and eventually gave in: the man was released.

Continued on back page, col 8

## Mark Thatcher found safe and well in desert

From Robin Young, Tamarrasset

Mr Mark Thatcher and his two companions in the Paris Dakar rally were found safe and well yesterday, after six days lost in the Sahara desert. They were spotted standing beside their white Peugeot car, waving to attract attention, 50 kilometres off the rally route at a place called Taoudert, 250 miles south of the search headquarters at Tamarrasset.

The group were sighted about 11.30 am by a C130 Hercules of the Algerian army, one of 10 aircraft which had been used in the search.

Mr Denis Thatcher, who had flown to Tamarrasset on Wednesday, said when given the news that it was the happiest day of his life. "I am very, very happy," he said. "All reports are that they are all extremely well."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night was expecting to be reunited with her son, aged 28, in London today.

Mr Thatcher, who went to Tamarrasset to ensure that everything was being done to find his son and his companions, telephoned 10 Downing Street at about 8.30 pm to tell his wife that they had been found and flown to the village of Tassalit in Mali.

Mr Thatcher said that his son was expected to join him at Tamarrasset this morning and that the President of Algeria had provided his own aircraft to fly them both back to London. Mr Thatcher had not spoken to his son but had spoken to others who confirmed that he was safe.

In a statement last night, Mrs Thatcher said: "I am very, very happy and thankful to have received information that Mark, his co-driver and crew are safe and well. It has been an ordeal for all of us, and not least for Charlotte Verney's elderly mother in France."

"I should like to express my deepest gratitude to the President of Algeria for everything his government has done to find Mark and his colleagues."

Mr Thatcher said afterwards that it was a miracle his son had been found in such a difficult terrain.

A helicopter was sent to drop a cross-country vehicle as close as possible to the stranded party, but they were eventually rescued by a vehicle of the border police.

Until the news was confirmed the mood at Downing Street was one of caution. There had been an earlier report that they were safe soon after the drivers were lost, but that proved wrong. Mrs Thatcher received telephone calls of concern from several heads of foreign governments, including President Reagan, and scores of messages from political colleagues during her anxious wait in the last two days (David Spenser writes).

Several offers of help, including offers of aircraft, were received but rejected with thanks. While waiting and listening to every report from Algeria, the Prime Minister did a full day's work at 10 Downing Street, presiding at Cabinet and his separate meetings of ministers, except for the cancellation on Wednesday of a courtesy call from the Hungarian Foreign Minister, no engagements were altered.

Mrs Thatcher was said to have had a good night's sleep on Wednesday after Mr Thatcher's first telephone call in which he gave an encouraging report on the efforts being made by the Mali and Algerian authorities.

By the time President Reagan telephoned, at about 1 pm yesterday, Mrs Thatcher was able to tell him that she had, had another more confident message from her husband, saying that the car and its occupants had been spotted. The Algerian Prime Minister and President Zia of Pakistan also telephoned Mrs Thatcher yesterday, and Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, sent a message.

Besides the ordeal of Mr Mark Thatcher and his team, the death of three other people, a Dutch motorcyclist, a journalist of Le Point following the race, and a spectator — have prompted questions in Paris about the organization and safety, regulations of the rally.

Many competitors go astray for a day or two, but they are always found in the end, the rally organizers maintain. The ordeal of Mr Mark Thatcher and his crew was, in their opinion, exceptional.

Survivor: Mr Bert Hamilton, of Gattensburg, Maryland, in hospital at Arlington, Virginia.

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## New Forest oil might last 3½ days only

From Hugh Noyes, Lyndhurst

The Shell Oil Company appeared yesterday to be running into a storm over its application to explore for oil in the New Forest.

On the third day of the public inquiry into the company's proposals to drill an exploratory borehole at the Denny Inclosure beauty spot, the mighty multi-national came under bitter attack for its attempts to wave the banner of national interest and for being prepared to sacrifice historic and environmental amenities, such as the New Forest, for purely commercial considerations.

Shell represented yesterday by Dr Philip Nelson, head of the company's Land and Western Offshore Exploration and Production, was unable to deny that, on the basis of its own estimate, the quantity of oil likely in the Lyndhurst structure could keep the nation going for between only three-and-a-half to ten days.

In other words, claimed Mr John Saul, local councillor representing 14 local and national amenity and conservation interests grouped under the New Forest Association, Shell was saying that for perhaps three-and-a-half days' national supply of oil the company would like to be in the New Forest for a possible 20 years.

While accepting that Mr Saul's calculations were "mathematically correct," Mr Nelson said his deductions were "totally false, misleading and should not be considered" by the inspector of the inquiry.

He refused to relate that figure directly to the New Forest site, stating that Shell's explorations there, at a cost of £1m, could result in "a big fat zero". The company would not know the answers about the oil until the exploration money was spent. The £1m was totally at risk and "might go straight down the borehole".

Shell has promised to seal-off the exploratory borehole after drilling, whatever oil it may find in the Lyndhurst structure. But yesterday Dr Nelson told the inquiry that did not mean the company would never apply to return to the site at a later stage for production purposes.

The Shell proposals have produced the biggest opposition ever mounted in the New Forest to any development scheme. Organizations representing thousands of local inhabitants are present at the inquiry, as well as a wide variety of national conservation and amenity societies.

Much of the cross-examination concerned with attempts to show the unacceptability of Shell UK when faced with such natural obstacles as mosses, butterflies, badgers and gladioli.

The oil search area, it was pointed out, includes the site of a fourteenth-century royal hunting lodge, some rare lichens, bogland sets and a breeding pair of hobbies, a rare variety of hawk, apparently partial to the New Forest flora and fauna.

The inquiry continues today.

## Father wins right to sue over deaf and dumb son

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

A father who pleaded before three Scottish judges for natural justice for his deaf-and-dumb son, aged eight, yesterday won one round in his six-year battle against a health board.

Mr James Kay, aged 51, a teacher of Ardross Road, Prestwick, was granted the right, in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, to bring a £200,000 damages case against Ayrshire and Arran Health Board to be proved in court.

Mr Kay alleges that his son Andrew became deaf at the age of two and a half after an overdose of penicillin was administered while he was being treated for meningitis in Sheffield children's hospital, Ayr.

The board admitted that an overdose had been administered, but claimed this had not caused the child's deafness.

Mr Kay twice refused to accept the advice of senior Queen's Counsel to accept an out of court settlement, claiming the offer was derisory.

Last week Mr Kay appealed against a decision by Lord Grieve to take the case out of his hands and appoint a curator to represent the child's interests. Mr Kay, who appeared on his own behalf, had argued that in the interests of natural justice his child's right should be properly tested in court and not decided on the advice of counsel or of the health board.

He claimed that it had taken three board eleven months to deny the original claim of an overdose and a further four years to admit liability.

Yesterday Lord Emslie, Lord President, sitting with Lord Stott and Lord Dunpark, ruled that no curator should have been appointed and awarded Mr Kay his costs.

Lord Emslie said: "The sooner this case is brought to court the better." Perhaps the father had been foolish in not accepting the advice of responsible senior counsel to accept an out of court settlement, "but all along his folly, if it is folly, is as he sees it in the child's interest. The father has no interest save to pursue what he believes to be in the interests of the child".

Lord Stott said: "There must be many cases in the past where counsel has advised a father to settle out of court in a child's interest and the father has stubbornly refused. The case has gone to court and sometimes the father has succeeded." Lord Dunpark said: "The father may be right or may be wrong, we will never know, unless the action goes to its conclusion".

After the hearing the boy's mother, Mrs Madge Kay said that her son was totally deaf and dumb. Before going into hospital at the age of two and a half he had been able to speak well and often answered the telephone.



Llanggoed Castle, where Millennium has plans for a conference centre.

## New lease of life for stately home

By a Staff Reporter

Negotiations are for the sale of Llanggoed Castle, Gwynedd, one of the finest stately homes in Wales, to an organization which wants it as a centre for discussions on conservation, and on the arts and sciences.

The organization, Millennium, aims to give the castle a new lease of life in a 10-year plan to turn it into a

conference centre, which would provide local jobs and attract thousands of visitors. The castle was the first important commission for the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and he regarded it as his best work.

Designed in 1912 the castle incorporated a seventeenth-century porch and was built regardless of cost to the highest standards. It stands

## 'Mountain pill conquers sickness'

By Ronald Farr

Tests in the Himalayas have produced new evidence of the effectiveness of a pill that is said to lower the highest mountains. According to Dr Joe Bradwell, of the Medical Research Expeditionary Society at Birmingham University, the evidence is overwhelming that Diamox, a drug commonly used in the treatment of glaucoma, is effective in fighting mountain sickness.

The University has given advice on the pill's effectiveness to the Chinese authorities, who are building a railway line from sea level to the Tibetan plateau and have suffered several deaths from altitude sickness.

A company in Birmingham that is installing transformers in Peru at 13,000ft has also taken a supply of the pill. Altitude sickness begins with a bad headache and continues through vomiting and diarrhoea to death unless the victim is moved quickly to a lower altitude.

The pill is made from acetazolamide, which is thought to stimulate the production of certain acids in the body, making it easier to breathe and control the level of oxygen in the blood at high altitude.

The pill has effectively knocked 6,000ft off the height of Everest, Dr Bradwell says, and has a similar effect at lesser altitudes.

The research team believes it is important to find an answer to altitude sickness because of the rising number of expeditions exposed to the danger in remote parts of the world.

Next month Dr Bradwell with 20 doctors and scientists from Birmingham sets out for Africa to test another drug made by Lederle, the American company that produces Diamox. He believes that the new substance may prove even more effective.

They will carry out their tests at 16,000ft on Mount Kenya, where they will be able to simulate an altitude equal to the top of Everest.

Lord Hunt, aged 71, leader of the successful British expedition to Everest in 1953, recently returned from the Himalayas after climbing a 20,000ft summit without suffering altitude sickness.

"The last time I was at a comparable altitude was 20 years ago in the Pamirs when I found climbing a 19,000ft peak quite a struggle. Chulu East, which we have just climbed, was higher, but really was not unduly bothered at all," he agreed that the party had spent a lengthy acclimatization period before attempting the peak.

Lady Hunt, who declined to take Diamox after two tablets had made her feel ill, and other members of the party reached the summit without problems and without assistance from the pill.

Dr Hamish Nicol, who gathered the results from those taking and not taking the pill concluded that it had not been convincingly proved to be helpful. "I was on it and became sure that it was not helpful to me," he said.

Elsewhere in the Himalayas, Mr Alf Gregory, another Everest veteran, was handing out Diamox to his clients on a photographic trek without any doubt that it would fend off the painful symptoms that can begin at about 12,000ft.



Weighing in: Claire, the new-born daughter of Anna Ford and her husband, Mark Boxer, the cartoonist, faces the cameras for the first time. Mr Boxer was present at the birth last week.

## Fire inquest anger

## Year of mourning for 13 blacks

By Lucy Hodges

A year ago on Monday, 13 young blacks died in a fire at a house in Deptford, south London. The bereaved families are still trying to appeal against the verdict of an inquest which found that the fire was caused by a cigarette.

It is understood that they are not being given access to a transcript of the proceedings, one of the stormiest in British history, to bring their appeal. Yesterday the clerk to Dr Arthur Gordon Davies, the inner London coroner, declined to comment.

At the end of the three-week inquest last May, after the jury had returned an open verdict, one of the families' solicitors said the verdict would be challenged because there were material irregularities in the coroner's supervision of the case and the way evidence was presented.

Dr Davies had taken no notes during the proceedings, when that was challenged before a High Court judge during an adjournment in the inquest Mr Justice

Comyn commented that it was a very serious irregularity.

The failure to provide a transcript of proceedings is therefore also the subject of an appeal by the families.

Mr Darius Howe, of the Massacre Action Committee, which has maintained all along that the fire was an arson attack against black people, is angry about the time the appeal is taking to come to court.

He accused the divisional court of callous and cruel behaviour to the families and the West Indian community. "We are very disgusted about it," he said.

"We have lodged all the documents and we note that there are occasions when cases are brought forward because of their social and political importance. We can only conclude that this is not the right time for an appeal."

On Monday Mr Howe and others will hold a public meeting at Deptford town hall to discuss this. Later this year the International Commission of Inquiry, announced by the action committee after the inquest, will be set up with between 16 and 23 commissioners appointed from many parts of the world.

Sunday's memorial service at St Paul's church in Deptford High Street will be followed by a procession to the burnt-out house and a Mass said outside it.

Prayers will be led by Mr Herbert Walker, the Jamaica High Commissioner, and Mr Andrew Hawkins, leader of Lewisham Council. The order of service, of which 1,000 have been printed, will contain pictures of the victims and tributes from their parents.

A New Cross 1981 Memorial Trust has been set up by Mrs Arma Ruddock, who lived in the house and lost two children in the fire, and the other families. They are negotiating with Lewisham Council to take over the house and to turn it into a centre for latch-key children in memory of the dead. The council is expected to decide later this month.

## Child kidney victims 'go untreated and die'

By Anabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A third of children under 15 years of age who develop kidney disease in Britain probably go untreated, and the through lack of facilities, Professor Cyril Chandler, professor of paediatric nephrology of Guy's Hospital, London, said yesterday.

About ninety children are believed to develop kidney disease each year, but only 61 were accepted for treatment last year, Dr Chandler said. He said that the size of the country's facilities for treatment of the disease are not there, he said.

Britain comes sixteenth among European countries in offering treatment to people suffering from kidney disease.

About 2,000 adults develop it each year, but facilities exist for treating only about 1,000 either through transplants or dialysis on kidney machines. The others are left to die.

This record is poor in comparison with our European neighbours. There are more patients on treatment in Switzerland, which has a population about one sixth the size of ours, Professor Chandler said.

"Spain treated more patients in relation to its population last year than we did. So did Cyprus." Greece treated about proportionately as Britain.

A fifth of those who die from kidney disease die as a result of chronic infection. "It is preventable if diagnosed early enough," he said. All children who develop infections of the urinary tract should be properly investigated for complications.

Treatment for children has been improving. Eleven children under the age of five were successfully given kidney transplants at Guy's Hospital last year, including Mark Jarvis, aged two, from Durrington, Wiltshire, who had his operation on Christmas Eve. A twelve child died.

The success rate for children overall was 80 per cent surviving, of those receiving transplants from relatives.

Professor Chandler, whose department receives support from the National Kidney Research Fund, said that in years to come obstetricians might operate on foetuses before birth.

It is possible to diagnose if a foetus has an obstruction in the urinary tract and babies are usually operated on shortly after birth.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

## Inner city parish plan may end

The campaign to set up parish councils in inner-city areas is in serious danger of foundering just as it seems to be on the verge of its first success, (Ian Bradley writes).

On Monday the Association of Neighbourhood Councils will tell Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, that the withdrawal of the Department's £6,000 grant in April, which has already been announced, will lead to its closure.

The association was set up in 1970 to press for the establishment of neighbourhood councils in towns and cities in Britain on the model of the parish councils in rural areas.

## Council defies refund ruling

Mid Bedfordshire District Council is defying an Ombudsman's ruling that it should refund £1,400 to a man who bought his council house in 1970. The council says that the cost of the man's house increased during the time it took the "slow and haphazard" council sales system to settle the purchase. The council blames government cuts for staff cuts and says it will not refund the money.

## Landlord raffles his pub

A landlord is to raffle his £175,000 seventeenth century public house, in a spot-the-ball competition. Mr Vic Jackson, landlord of the New Forest pub on the outskirts of Hinton, Dorsetshire, is selling lottery tickets at £100 a time.

The profits will go to Hinton, Sevenage, Letchworth and Baldock football clubs. Tickets go on sale on Monday.

## Princess to attend film premiere

The first solo engagement of the Princess of Wales's spring programme was announced by Buckingham Palace yesterday. On March 8 she will attend the premiere of *The Little Foxes* at the Victoria Palace Theatre, London. The proceeds will go to the Army Benevolent Fund and the Metropolitan Police Combined Benevolent Fund.

## US to see Ulster atrocities

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Gruesome pictures of the victims of Northern Ireland terrorism will be used as part of a propaganda campaign to project the Unionist case in the United States during the next two weeks.

The photographs, which the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said yesterday were horrific, are part of a book published for the departure today of a four-member Unionist team for America.

The book contains colour and black and white photographs on more than 100 pages and the photographs are designed to shock Americans. Mr Paisley said they depicted the true nature of terrorism better than a million words.

Entitled *Ulster - the Facts*, and written by Mr Paisley with his deputy, Mr Peter Robinson, MP for Belfast, East, and Mr John Tabor, Official Ulster Unionist European MP, the book is dedicated to the Rev Robert South, who was murdered by the IRA last November. (The photographs include portraits of a leg blown off by a terrorist, a head covered in blood, and Mr Taylor having medical treatment after the attempt to assassinate him in 1972.)

Ten thousand copies have been printed, with 2,000 being sent to the United States and Canada in readiness for the arrival of the "Operation USA" team comprising Mr Robinson, Mr Taylor, Mrs Norah Bradford, widow of the murdered MP, and Mrs Eileen Paisley, who is taking the place of her husband Mr Paisley who was to have led the team but his visa was revoked last month by the United States.



## An Appeal to all our Customers.

Whilst we deeply regret the hardship and inconvenience caused by the present strike action, we ask all our customers to support the stand we are taking to ensure that commitments to after-out-dated working practices are honoured.

'Flexible rostering' which is the issue in the ASLEF dispute, is only one of the changes we need to modernise the railway. This programme of change was initiated in agreement with all our Unions in May 1980, and positive commitments on six specific initiatives were made in August last year.

The pay agreement we reached at that time was on the strict understanding that there would be progress in implementing these essential improvements in efficiency. In our present financial position it would have been irresponsible of us to have acted in any other way.

Like railways in all other major countries, British Rail is financially supported by the community as a whole. Directly or indirectly, everyone in Britain

is a customer of British Rail. And everyone contributes to our finances as a tax-payer. That contribution, as our critics often remind us, is now running at more than £2 million a day.

A lot of money. Which surely means that we have a bounden duty to become as efficient and cost-effective as we reasonably can.

The changes in working practices which underlie the ASLEF dispute are essential to the modernisation of the railway. Modernisation, as we have often argued, needs more public money for investment. This will require a big change in public attitudes to the importance of railways in this country.

But, by our own efforts, we have to justify more investment and to earn a change in the public standing of the railways.

The point blank refusal of one section of our work force to make any headway on flexible rostering goes to the heart of the matter ASLEF knew this in August. They understood the argument. And the arithmetic.

We hope you understand why we have to stand firm.

## Increase in recruits for young workers' scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Ministers have been encouraged by a sharp increase in the number of companies recruiting employees under the controversial young workers' scheme.

The scheme, under which employers may seek a £15-a-week grant for every new worker under 18 whom they take on for a weekly wage of less than £40, had attracted 5,415 applications by the end of last week. The payments last for a year.

Devised by Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's economic adviser, the young

workers' scheme was announced last year and was bitterly attacked by the TUC as a new source of cheap labour and a way of further depressing wages.

Although the scheme did not start operating until January 4, the Department of Employment started taking applications from early last month and interest was much more sluggish in December than the Government had hoped.

A sudden spurt in applications at the turn of the year, however, has led minis-

ters to believe they may be on target in their aim of attracting between 50,000 and 100,000 applications a year to the scheme.

As a result of protests at the original proposals, the Government also agreed to pay a £7.50 grant for workers under 18 taken on at a wage of between £40 and £45 a week.

Bradford City Council plans to create 700 more jobs. That comes after budget proposals to spend an extra £7m on improving services. Mr Derek Smith,

leader of the Labour-controlled council, said services had been run down and needed building up.

By December 23 only 2,349 applications had been received, but by January 1 the number had increased to 3,572. In the next week they increased by almost 2,000 to produce a total of 5,415 by January 7.

Companies applying for the grant are said to include some large companies, although the department refused to give examples yesterday.

مكتبة الشارقة



# Blast in Warsaw kiosk puts troops on edge

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 14

A small bomb explosion destroyed a telephone kiosk near the party Central Committee building in Warsaw yesterday afternoon. Nobody was hurt, though some windows were broken. The explosion, admitted by the official news agency, is the first to happen since the declaration of martial law a month ago. It may well reinforce those elements on the military council who are understood to have reiterated warnings against a "pre-mature" loosening of the reins. The military presence in Warsaw was strong today, especially around the Central Committee building in the city centre, but it was difficult to judge if the troops had been greatly increased. Some soldiers who three days ago were seen carrying their automatic rifles on their backs have them in the alert position again.

After the imposition of martial law, the Army appeared to have expected some form of partisan-style fighting accordingly: defending bridges and vulnerable buildings. The main flashpoints for the Army and militia were always those involving a military — the presence of ammunition, explosive or gas — rather than political threat. It is significant that the main casualties of the "pacification" campaign were miners who had access to gelignite.

As these fears proved to be largely groundless, the military council started to redefine the problems faced, relaxing a number of physical restrictions in cities. It was announced two days ago, for example, that theatres and concert halls would reopen on Friday. This may in turn presage a relaxation of the curfew, which now runs from 11 pm to 5 am in the capital.

But the bomb explosion, though it was clearly very small — Warsaw Radio calls it a firecracker — may well change that picture. Patrols were particularly active in searching car boots today and key buildings such as the state telephone exchange have five military lorries parked outside.

The relaxation of the past few days has in any case been somewhat grudging. Although telephones are back within Warsaw, all

foreigners and many Poles have heard an automatic recording saying "This call is being monitored" before they are put through.

A Central Committee meeting that was due to be held this week appears to have been put back until after the opening of Parliament on Wednesday. General Wojciech Jaruzelski is due to deliver a speech at this session and the party appears to be waiting to take its tune from the head of the military council.

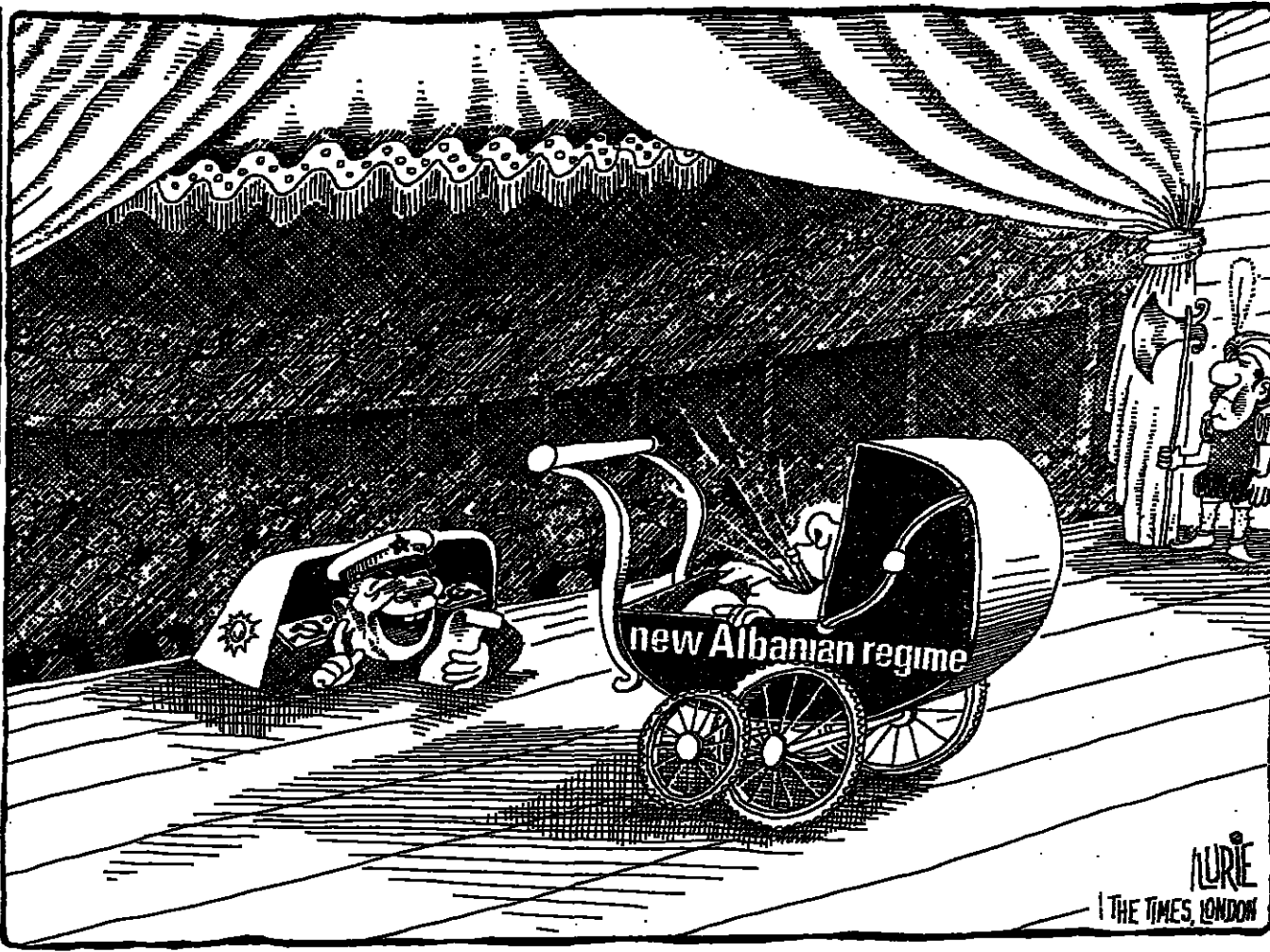
The central Committee had yet to meet since the imposition of martial law. The Politburo met on Tuesday but the session was understood to have been very short. Other party bodies have been meeting to discuss the current purge of Solidarity activists and political prisoners from their ranks. Most party meetings — of the Central Committee for example — are preceded by a statement pledging support for the military council.

The bomb — eyewitnesses are adamant it was certainly not a firecracker — may have been placed to coincide with the Central Committee meeting that never took place or to mark a month of martial law. So far there are no official accounts of disturbances elsewhere in the country.

There have been some fears here — grounded in suspicion rather than fact at present — that there have been incidents near Katowice and in Bielsko-Biala. The first suggestion is based on a report from a recent visit to Katowice by a Western diplomat who heard of a village where 200 people were missing. Usually when people are interned, relatives are informed, so the mystery remains.

The second area of concern, Bielsko-Biala, has attracted attention because of the number of church dignitaries, including Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, who have been visiting the region for discussions. There are suspicions, that there might be a sit-in strike in the area and that the church is trying to mediate. The Church, which over the past week has become reticent in talking to the press, could neither confirm nor deny that something was happening there. It is impossible for correspondents to telephone or visit the area.

"Verification", the official



Gala performance

Polish shorthand for the long and sweeping purge of critical civil servants, teachers and journalists, has taken on a new and sharper edge. The quiet tolerance of some solidarity members in parts of the state administration, has disappeared and more and more people are losing their jobs.

That is the picture to emerge from a variety of sources over the past few days. In Szczecin, it is reported unofficially that 2,500 shipyard workers have lost their jobs after refusing to sign documents renouncing Solidarity, and other workers associated with defence-related contracts have also come under pressure to leave the union.

In general, however, the authorities seem to be skirting round the issue of "verifying" workers and have concentrated on weeding out the reform-minded bureaucrats, and the professionals (with the exception of doctors) who could slow down or alter the full impact of martial law.

A Solidarity bulletin, issued on Saturday but which has only just reached correspondents, gives concrete examples. "Special teams," says the bulletin, "are being sent to schools in order to undertake education in civic

duties... interviews have been held with teachers, especially with Solidarity activists and these have been invited to sign declarations of loyalty. News has reached us from Poznan that many headmasters have been removing crucifixes from their schools after the kuratorium (school authority) issued a guideline."

Editors at Zycie Warszawy deny reports that 60 out of 100 journalists have been dismissed from the newspaper but concede that a significant proportion "have decided to leave". In most newspapers the "verification" procedure is still under way, with most journalists trying to delay the crucial — interview with specially selected party loyalists — for as long as possible. So far on the youth paper Sztandar Mlodych about 10 of the staff of 60 have signed declarations of loyalty to state and party but this may well increase over the coming week.

## Tougher Schmidt jeered in Bundestag

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 14

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, today toughened his language over the military takeover in Poland. The situation in Poland, he told the Bundestag, is having "serious consequences for international relations, for stability in Europe and cooperation between East and West."

He showed once again the rigidity of the Communist regimes, of the Warsaw Pact towards the challenge of allowing peaceful change. In this way they heap great sufferings on their peoples and they undermine confidence in cooperation between East and West.

"Our allies," he said, "can rely on us. We can rely on them. We will not ourselves be talked into a crisis of the alliance when what is really involved is a crisis of the Communist system."

He said he shared and understood the passionate indignation of many people in the world. In France in Italy in the United States, everywhere.

Herr Schmidt's speech appeared to repair the psychological damage done by his initial reserved reaction to the military crackdown in Poland. He seems to have been shaken by the criticism abroad of his position.

It also seems to have been prompted by the fact that Poland is not responding to his policy of persuasion rather than punishment. But although he packaged his views differently his basic line remained the same: "Our aim is not limited to indignant confrontation (but) to influence the effective situation of the people in Poland to achieve an improvement of this situation

and the restoration of human rights."

Much of what West Germany had done, he said, had simply not been reported. Its reserve had been misunderstood. West Germany owed gratitude to the United States for putting it on its feet after the war and defending it and Berlin. He criticized many young people who saw a mote in the United States' eye and ignored the beam in that of the Soviet Union.

The Western answer to the Polish crisis, he said, should not be a return to the cold war but by means of a "carefully balanced policy to convince the Soviet Union and the present regime in Poland to respect the agreements of the Helsinki final act."

On the question of sanctions, he said Nato had worked out a catalogue of political and economic measures which would be applied by common agreement.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, attacked the Chancellor for "damaging the reputation of the Federal Republic" and quoted numerous foreign press comments criticizing the West German line. The Government's policy, he declared, was bankrupt. If its view was "business as usual" after the events in Poland, West Germany was really finished.

Herr Schmidt was jeered and heckled by the Opposition. Jeers rose to such a pitch at one point, when Herr Schmidt accused the Opposition of contributing to foreign misunderstandings, that he was prevented from speaking for several minutes.

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and the restoration of human rights."

## Albanians deny death of Hoxha

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade, Jan 14

Albanian diplomats have denied that Mr Enver Hoxha, the party leader, was killed in a revenge shooting after the death last month of Mr Mehmet Shehu, the Prime Minister.

It was reported at the time of Mr Shehu's death that he had committed suicide. Mr Hoxha has not been seen since then.

The diplomats said here and in Western capitals that rumours about Mr Hoxha's death were originating in Yugoslavia, which had its own particular interest in spreading misinformation around the world.

A picture of Mr Hoxha in the Albanian Party newspaper Zeri Popullit on December 25, a week after Shehu's alleged suicide, was presented as evidence that the party leader was safe and alive and, moreover, visiting an art exhibition.

He was in an armchair, surrounded by his colleagues, Mr Ramiz Alia, a Politburo member who is now regarded as the second man in the hierarchy, and Mr Kadri Hazbiu, Defence Minister and Shehu's nephew who, according to rumours, avenged his uncle by shooting Mr Hoxha on January 5.

Parliament is meeting and the Albanian envoys said the session would provide evidence that Mr Hoxha is alive and in charge, as he will be there when the new Prime Minister is confirmed.

The diplomats said that lorries going through Yugoslavia to Western Europe no longer carry portraits of Mr Hoxha, the explanation being that Yugoslavia custom officials were delaying vehicles with the portrait.

Neither is it denied that Shehu had disgraced Albania by committing suicide which was apparently regarded as treason and sufficient reason to deny him any honours. Albania, said a diplomat, does not forgive anyone who leaves the battlefield and the services Shehu had rendered for 40 years, 28 of them as Prime Minister, had been annulled by his death.

This is the official explanation, but it leaves many questions, the main being the way Albania might turn to ease its economic difficulties. Hitherto, Mr Hoxha has preached self-reliance.

Albania is perhaps unique in claiming to have no foreign debts, except that China, her last mentor, says it gave huge amounts of aid which was never repaid.

The Albanian constitution forbids the Government to borrow abroad, except from friendly countries which subscribe to the same ideology.

As things stand, there seems to be no country that qualifies, except Vietnam, with which Albania maintains close relations, but which is not in a position to help.

Reports about a power struggle, that Mr Shehu never went anywhere without a gun and the way he died have been doing the rounds of various capitals. Many seem to have originated in Belgrade, where events in Albania are being watched closely.

The reports are part of the psychological and verbal warfare which is going on since the eruption of Albanian ethnic riots in the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia last spring.

The Yugoslavs blamed Albania and Mr Hoxha personally for inciting the Yugoslav Albanians to revolt. They also accused him of laying claims to the Kosovo region, with the ultimate design of creating a greater Albanian state.

However, he had their relations with Mr Hoxha, the Yugoslavs nevertheless feel safer with him than with someone new and unknown. They say the policy of self-reliance has come to an end and see signs of a power struggle which would weaken Mr Hoxha, leaving Albania the option of moving closer to the West or back to the East. The latter clearly worries Belgrade most.

Miro in hospital

Palma. — John Miro, aged 80, the Spanish painter, has had a pacemaker installed and is recovering well in hospital, doctors said here.

## Kitson aunt battered to death

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Jan 14

In a new twist to the Kitson affair, Mrs Allison Joan Weinberg, the 52-year-old aunt of the British engineer held for five days by South African security police, was found dead yesterday in her flat in central Johannesburg. The police are treating it as a case of murder.

Mrs Weinberg was the sister-in-law of Mr David Kitson, the Briton serving a 20-year jail sentence in a Pretoria prison for sabotage. His son, Mr Steven Kitson, was arrested a week ago after visiting his father on suspicion of being part of a plot to free convicted terrorists.

The younger Kitson was released without charge on Tuesday and put on a flight to England where on arrival he complained of being beaten and otherwise mal-

treated by his South African captors. The South African Commissioner of Police later rejected these complaints as "completely false".

Mrs Weinberg, who helped to arrange Mr Steven Kitson's visits to his father, found at about 6 pm yesterday slumped over the side of her bath, which was filled with bloodstained water. Some of her teeth had been knocked out and she had also sustained injuries to the head and jaw.

The police found a broken chain in the bathroom and more bloodstains in the bedroom. It was not immediately clear whether Mrs Weinberg had made her own way to the bathroom, or had been carried there by her assailant.

Mr Steven Kitson had stayed with Mrs Weinberg's

son, Mr Robbie Sacks, while he was in South Africa. Mr Sacks was reported tonight to be "too upset" to talk about the affair.

Mrs Weinberg was described today by friends and relatives as a "very good person". They said she had run a marriage bureau from her flat, and also a lonely hearts club. Last Christmas she had organized a radio "adopt-a-granny" appeal.

The Johannesburg evening newspaper, The Star, today published a list of 361 people detained under South Africa's draconian security laws since the beginning of last year. Only about 20 of these are known to have been charged with an offence. About 100 have been released without charge, and the fate of the rest is unknown.

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Husband offers £112,000

Rome, Jan 14. — Mr Stephen Jay, a British businessman whose wife vanished more than a year ago with a woman friend near Sanano has offered a reward of up to 250m lire (£112,000) for information leading to their being found alive. He also offered just under half that sum for a solution to the mystery of their disappearance. This offer indicates that Mr Jay has given up the idea that his wife, Jeanette, and Signora Gabriella Guerri could have been victims of an accident. It was now very difficult, Mr Jay said, to believe in such a possibility. He and his wife's family had faced false hopes during a year of uncertainty. Mr Jay outlined the facts he had. "At some time during the afternoon or evening of Saturday, November 29, 1980, the black peugeot 104 in which the two women had been driving was left locked and drivable with valuable property inside about 2 km beyond the Maddalena mountain crossroads, between Sarnano and Acquacane, and about 4 km from Sassotetto.

"It is evident that the women spent some time in the empty house a short distance away after leaving the car. There were signs of available wood being burned for warmth and as a signal fire on a front balcony. There the trail ends."

### Vandals destroy priceless relics

Peking. — Priceless relics have been destroyed in the northern Chinese city of Luoyang, but the authorities seem unwilling to act against the culprits, the People's Daily said.

Last year, vandals chopped off the heads and hands of more than 60 statues in the fifth century Longmen caves, one of China's most famous Buddhist sites, the newspaper added. In 1978, vandals destroyed more than 2,400 recently excavated pieces of pottery stored in unguarded caves near Luoyang.

### Critics choose Meryl Streep



Meryl Streep (above) at a dinner in Los Angeles after she was chosen as best actress of 1981 by Los Angeles film critics for her role in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

### Spy accused of bank robberies

Boise, Idaho. — Christopher Boyce the convicted spy, has been charged with conspiring to commit eight bank robberies.

Mr Boyce, aged 28, was convicted in 1977 of selling satellite secrets from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Soviet Union and sentenced to 40 years in prison. He escaped in January, 1980 and was recaptured 19 months later. Gloria White and Calvin Robinson are accused with him of conspiring to rob the banks of more than \$27,000 (about £14,000).

### Action against Lee Marvin off

Los Angeles. — The former lover of Lee Marvin the filmmaker, who successfully sued him in the first of the "palimony" cases, has abandoned her attempt to obtain a \$104,000 (about £50,000) settlement from him, her lawyer said.

Mitchell Triola Marvin would not try to overturn an appeals court ruling that Mr Marvin did not have to pay her the money, Mr Marvin Mitchellson, the lawyer, added.

### Draft dodger is granted refuge

Canberra. — Australia has accepted a South African draft dodger as a refugee, Mr Ian MacPhee, the Immigration Minister, announced. Mr MacPhee disclosed earlier this month that Australia had previously granted asylum to at least a dozen South African draft dodgers.

The 24-year-old refugee is using a pseudonym to protect his family in South Africa.

# Running a business?

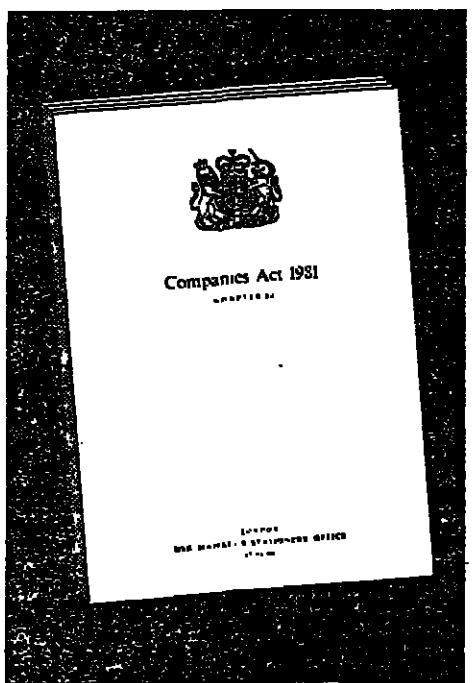
Are you trading under your own name?  
If not, read on carefully.

Under the Companies Act 1981 new requirements apply to all businesses—whether owned by individuals, partnerships or registered companies—which trade under a name other than that of their owners.

From 26 February 1982 onwards business of this kind will be freed from the obligation to supply details to the Registry of Business Names, which is being abolished.

From the same date, such businesses will have to display the names and addresses of their owners at their business premises and on their business stationery. This information must also be given on request to any customers and suppliers.

For further details, ask for explanatory notes on business ownership, available from: Department of Trade, Guidance Notes Section, 55 City Road, London EC1Y 1BB.





## British hostility stalls EEC budget package

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 14

The latest plans to restructure the finances and agricultural policy of the EEC run into strong opposition from Britain when the Community's foreign ministers met in Brussels today.

The meeting was called as a last attempt to reach a political agreement on guidelines for reform before the annual agricultural price fixing week, which starts next week. Failure to reach agreement at the meeting will involve further negotiations in the price-fixing procedure.

The plans under discussion were drawn up by Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, at the request of the foreign ministers during their meeting in London a month ago to study the four key issues which still stand in the way of a final agreement.

Although proposals on two of these issues concerning Mediterranean produce and the growth of agricultural spending, could be agreed, Britain is far from happy about the suggestions put forward on the other two sticking points. These are budget contributions and milk production, in both of which Britain is involved.

Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Minister for External Relations who is president of the council, carried out what was called "the milk" round of European capitals before today's meeting to sound out views on the proposals. He found a general agreement on the urgent need to compromise, despite British hostility to the milk and budget proposals.

Mr Thorn has sought to reconcile the two apparently rival needs of the Community which are to help small farmers and at the same time to limit milk production. His suggestion is that the cost of paying for milk surpluses should be shared among the dairy farmers, with producers paying more as they produce more.

Britain, supported by the Netherlands and Denmark, argues that this penalizes efficient farmers and runs counter to the spirit of the

## Anthrax kills after 1,300 years

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Jan 14

Anthrax spores that lay dormant for 13 centuries in the soil of Siberia infected a cow after Soviet archaeologists had excavated the site of a settlement decimated by the disease in the seventh century, a Soviet newspaper reported today.

*Sovetskaya Rossiya* said that veterinary surgeons near the industrial town of Perm recently diagnosed the highly infectious disease in a cow but were unable to trace the source, as anthrax had officially been declared eradicated in the area.

It was then discovered that in the summer an archaeological dig near a river had uncovered evidence of an ancient epidemic in the area that had killed large numbers of animals and humans and prompted those remaining alive to burn their houses and abandon the site.

Emergency measures were taken to stop the disease spreading on the collective farm, and there were no further reported infections. The paper said medical experts, called in to investigate, were now able to give a guarantee the disease would not return.

Perm is not far from Sverdlovsk, where the Soviet authorities admitted two years ago that an outbreak of anthrax had killed a large number of people in 1979. The Russians blamed the disease on infected meat, but the United States maintained that the spores were released after an accident at an establishment manufacturing biological weapons.

Washington has never regarded the Soviet explanation as satisfactory.

## Doctors demand more cash in oil scandal

Richard Wigg reports on developments in Spain's cooking oil scandal, in the first of two articles from our correspondents in Madrid.

Six doctors heading the official scientific commission into the nine-month-old poisonous cooking oil tragedy have urged the Spanish Government and Parliament to provide the money and organization needed for "real solutions".

With the death toll now more than 240 they say the tragedy will continue to be an enormous public health problem for a long time to come. There are risks, they say, in the next few months of new complications developing among the victims, even among patients now recovering satisfactorily.

The Government is told it would commit a grave error, merely compensating existing victims without providing simultaneously the means to "prevent an extension of the damage" caused by the epidemic.

In a dramatic change of tone, the doctors, headed by Professor Manuel Serrano Rios, complain of "big difficulties" encountered in speeding up the necessary structural changes in the public health bureaucracy. They admit to meagre clinical results so far, and confess that after many months doctors and hospital staffs are becoming tired and demoralized.

The doctors' report has only now been leaked to the press, although the appeal for action to Señor Manuel Nuñez, the Health Minister, was handed into the parliamentary commission investigating the tragedy just before Christmas.

So far there have been no public signs of any response.



Children under treatment at a Madrid hospital for the toxic oil syndrome

Señor Jesus Sancho Ref, Health Minister when the scandal broke, was dropped in last month's Cabinet reshuffle, but doctors concerned by the handling of the administrative problems have noted that Dr Luis Valenciano, former Director-General of Public Health, has since been promoted to Deputy Secretary of Health.

"The grave toxic epidemic has shown dramatically the already well known structural deficiencies, but these cannot excuse anyone from the obligation to face up to the problems with the utmost determination to find real solutions," the doctors said.

They reported that the lungs of those affected were

now developing a chronic pathology with hypertension and probably diffused interstitial fibrosis while there was a danger of new symptoms, which they did not define, appearing in patients apparently now recovering.

The doctors are still emphasizing that enormous rehabilitational needs of patients have yet to be met.

They proposed the concentration of resources and patients in a few better equipped hospitals.

Spanish doctors and foreign specialists assisting them have not found the agent or agents causing the disease which has put more than 400 people into hospital

and led to an estimated 2,000 more having to be treated at outpatient clinics.

A lawyer representing the families of 70 people who died and other victims has suggested, after consulting medical experts, that it may take two to three years to arrive at the scientific facts.

Meanwhile, the official theory that adulterated rapeseed oil, imported for industrial use, was sold for human consumption last spring, continues to be questioned.

In Bilbao a family has fallen ill with all the typical symptoms in spite of repeated official laboratory tests which found the oil they bought and consumed was safe.

## Amnesty-report rejected

## Pakistan claims only 62 political detainees

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad, Jan 14

Mr Mahmood Haroon, the Pakistan Interior Minister, today rejected the report of Amnesty International on the state of political and human rights in Pakistan and accused Amnesty and some other agencies of being highly prejudiced against his country.

Speaking in the newly-formed Federal Council (Majlis-i-Shoora) on the threat to Pakistan's security, Mr Haroon said that the number of political arrests reported by Amnesty was highly exaggerated. He said that at present the Government held 481 people against whom cases for anti-state activities were being processed and 62 others were detained pending investigation. He said that these 62 could be considered political detainees.

Mr Haroon accused extremists of the late Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and those belonging to the al-Zulfikar party of being paid agents of foreign forces bent upon undermining the security of Pakistan, although he did not name the forces.

He said that anti-state activities had increased since the armed intervention by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan two years ago.

He alleged that the executed Prime Minister's sons, Mr Murtaza Bhutto and Mr Shah Nawaz Bhutto, were master-minding al-Zulfikar's terrorist activities in Pakistan.

tan from the Afghanistan capital.

He maintained that the activities of foreign powers and some political elements in the country were designed to cause agitation among students and labour and, through communal hatred, to dislodge the military government of General Zia ul-Haq by force.

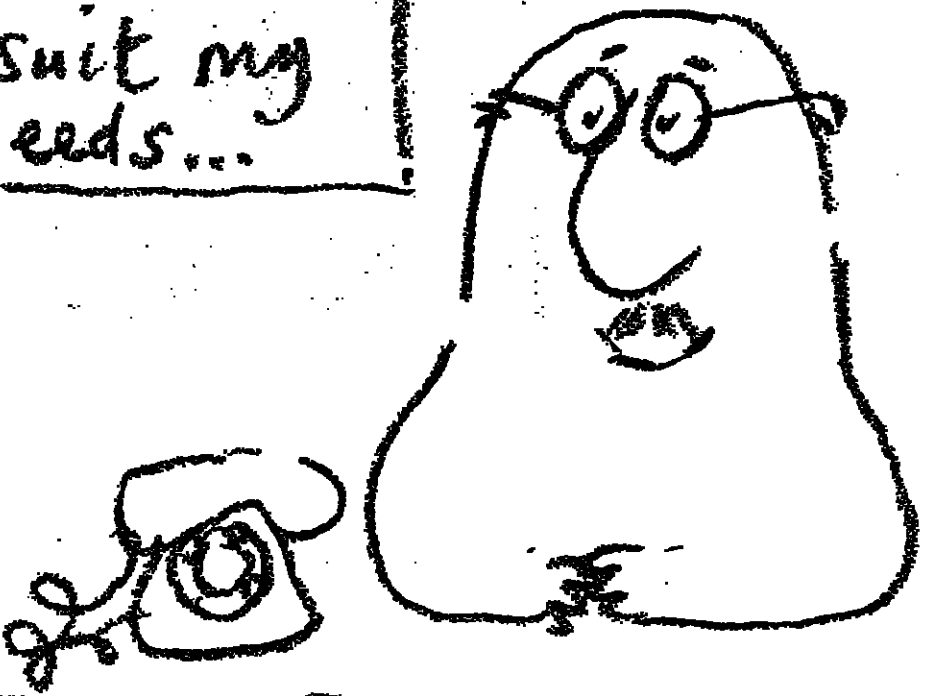
Speaking later to *The Times*, the minister said he did not recognize Amnesty International and its findings.

Mr Bhutto's Government had also at one time refused recognition to Amnesty. Mr Haroon said that Amnesty had made no approach to him to check the contents

Amnesty, reporting large scale torture and detention on political grounds in Pakistan, had stated that the Government was not willing to let its representatives meet them to ascertain facts. Mr Haroon said angrily that Amnesty had condemned Pakistan without obtaining confirmation.

In spite of Mr Haroon's emphatic assertion that there were no more political detainees in Pakistan beyond those he mentioned, a well-known Urdu language newspaper a few weeks ago quoted a senior police officer as saying that about 10,000 people had been rounded up in the Rawalpindi division alone in connection with maintenance of public order.

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Premonition: Mrs Jihan Sadat, wife of the assassinated Egyptian President, told an American television audience that her husband refused to wear a bulletproof vest even though he had "a clear premonition" of his impending death.

## METEORITE PANIC IN UGANDA

Nairobi, Jan 14. — Rumours have been sweeping Kampala that a massive meteorite will crash into Uganda on Saturday, killing three million people, (Charles Harrison writes). Despite official assurances that there is no danger, many Ugandans have fled from Kampala to their tribal areas.

Radio Uganda today led its news bulletins with appeals to Ugandans to ignore the rumours, explaining that meteorites invariably burn up in the atmosphere and cause no damage.

## How Wells Fargo was taken for \$21m ride

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Jan 14

The flamboyant Californian boxing promoter, Mr Harold Smith and Mr Sammie Marshall, the man who acted as his matchmaker, were convicted on Wednesday by a federal jury of embezzling \$21.3m (£11.2m) from the Wells Fargo Bank in what prosecutors claimed was the biggest theft in United States banking history.

An eight man, four woman jury returned verdicts of guilty after eight days of deliberation after more than five weeks of testimony. The jury was told that the money, except for about \$5m generated by Mr Smith's fight promotions, was embezzled by Mr Ben Lewis, described as the "inside man" at the bank. However, Lewis became the star prosecution witness in the case.

Mr Smith, who rose quickly to the ranks of the world's top boxing promoters in a two-year period, was convicted on 20 charges of

intestate transportation of stolen property and foreign commerce and eight counts of aiding and abetting. He was acquitted on one charge of interstate transportation of stolen funds.

Mr Marshall, who worked as the Wells Fargo Bank, was convicted on one count each of conspiracy, embezzlement and making a false entry, but was acquitted on a fourth charge of aiding and abetting.

Sentencing of the two men will take place on March 9 and the maximum possible sentence on all counts could total 260 years.

After the verdict the bearded 38-year-old promoter who organized the championship fights under the title of Muhammad Ali promotions he purchased the ex-world champion's name but Ali was never involved in the day-to-day running of the operation — was granted bail and insisted he was innocent.



From Runway 36 to disaster — the seconds which spelled life or death in the frozen Potomac River

# The hero of flight 90 — he died to save five lives

By Christopher Thomas and Michael Hamlyn in New York and Nicholas Ashford in Washington

Air Florida flight 90 from Washington to Fort Lauderdale and Tampa was scheduled to leave the capital's National Airport at 2.15 pm local time. By 2 pm all 71 passengers and three infants were waiting in the departure lounge listening to repeated announcements of delays.

Nothing had taken off for an hour while snow ploughs fought to clear the runways and airport workers sprayed de-icer on stranded aircraft. At around 3 pm a decision was apparently taken that weather conditions had improved enough for flights to resume, although the blizzard continued.

The passengers filed into 21 rows of seats in the Boeing 737 leaving 41 seats unoccupied. The three stewardesses on board, Donna Adams, Kelly Duncan and Marilyn Nichols, all in their mid-twenties, walked up and down the aisles serving light refreshments.

For the next 90 minutes Captain Larry Wheaton, aged 35, and his co-pilot, Mr Roger Pettit, both from Miami, apologized repeatedly for the further delay. Then to everybody's relief, take-off was announced over the aircraft's loud-speaker system. At 4.25 pm flight 90 left the gate and moved through the heavy, falling snow to runway 36, which is 6,870ft long and the airport's longest. A few minutes later the control tower gave clearance and the aircraft, bearing the blue and white insignia of Air Florida sped out of sight into the blizzard.

As it happened, it was one of the first aircraft to take off after the closure of

time to about half a mile. Captain Wheaton himself was to decide whether conditions were sufficiently good for him to attempt a takeoff within guidelines approved by the FAA.

Disaster was seconds away, but even in that time some passengers had a sense of the danger. Mr Joseph Stille, a private pilot, was thumbing through paperwork with his secretary, when he suddenly turned to his secretary and said: "We are not going to make it. We are going in." "I had a pretty good indication that things were not going right soon after we started down the runway. We didn't have the speed. It then seemed like he (the pilot) had to make the decision to go, so we took off. We got up a little bit. It didn't climb like a normal 737. Then I remembered the first impact, then a second impact, a moment or two later, and I went unconscious."

## Pilot struggled for 20 seconds

It is less than a mile from the end of the runway to the 14th Street bridge. The aircraft just managed to gain enough height to clear the railway bridge which runs alongside. Mr Burt Hamilton, aged 40, was sitting in the last row of 21B against the galley and he, too, "knew something was wrong as it took off. When the aircraft took off it seemed to take an awful long time to pick up speed. It really started vibrating — a strong shaking. The shaking was so bad I tightened my seat belt."

"And the next thing I knew I was in the water," Mr Hamilton said. He grabbed a piece of what had been the plane's tail and just hung on.

The pilot struggled for 20 seconds in the air. He cleared the first span of the road bridge. He was not visible on any radar screens in those few seconds.

Air stewardess Kelly Duncan felt the plane starting to shake and the next thing she knew she was in the water. She was in a jump seat in the tail section of the aircraft.

The next view, at 4.35 pm, was from the ground. As the pilot struggled to clear the first span of the road bridge, the plane sheared the tops off several cars and a lorry.

"I heard it coming," said Mr Lloyd Creger, a Justice Department employee who was travelling along the northern span of the bridge. "I couldn't see anything. It was snowing. Then I saw the plane coming out of the sky. The nose was up, the tail was down. It was so loud I couldn't hear myself scream. And then," Mr Creger added, "there was no sound. You couldn't even hear the plane go into the water."

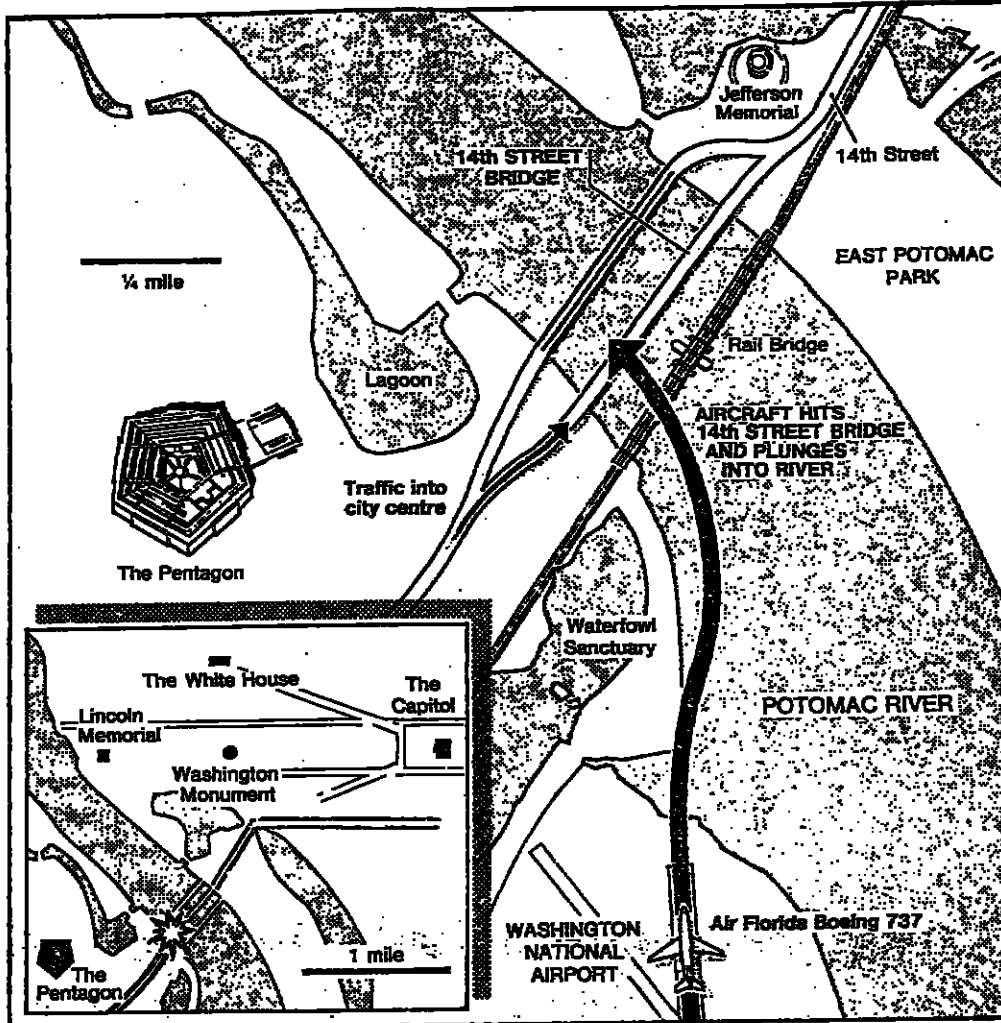
Mr Oj Richardson, a bus driver who was among the vehicles crawling across the bridge, saw four cars completely demolished. "Their tops were sheared off. The



The scattered remains of cars litter the 14th Street bridge over the Potomac. Six people died when the airliner scythed through the rush-hour traffic jam cutting off the tops of several vehicles



A woman hangs from a helicopter rescue rope above the airliner wreckage. The winch team dived into the remains of the fuselage lying among chunks of ice on the surface of the river to lift out survivors, many of them still strapped to their seats



plane sort of tumbled into the water, and you could see pieces hit the ice and bounce in the air, and then hit the bridge."

Another eyewitness said that when the aircraft plunged into the water just in front of the second span of the road bridge it "shattered the ice like a window or a piece of glass."

"I stopped the bus and ran to the side of the bridge, you could see five people in the water, clinging to the wreckage," Mr Richardson said. "They were alive. Everybody was screaming from the bridge: 'Hold on, hold on. Help will be here.'"

It was several minutes before the first police car arrived too see Flight 90 sitting on the water surrounded by large chunks of broken ice, before it slid beneath the surface.

According to experienced rescue workers a strong swimmer could have lasted 5 to 10 minutes before his arms and legs became numb and he drowned. Those

with something to hang on to could have survived for anything up to 90 minutes but the shock would have killed many outright.

Mr Stille said: "I was looking out of the side window. I knew there were bridges down there but I couldn't see them. There was no time for any pilot message. When he regained consciousness in the water, he saw four other people, one of them his secretary, get out through a hole ripped in the fuselage. The biggest problem was taking off the stupid seat belt. One of the other men said he was still strapped in — and I couldn't do anything to help him. It seemed that everybody had their legs broken."

Mr Stille estimated that he was in the water "for the better part of a half hour," before a rescue helicopter lowered a rope to him. Mr Hamilton found himself worrying absurdly about a lost shoe — he saw four other survivors, two clinging to the wreckage and

two in the water. One woman had apparently been thrown some distance from the crash. He saw her manage to swim to a piece of wreckage where she was rescued.

The first ambulance to arrive at the bridge was from the Virginia side of the river. Helicopters arrived at about the same time and many people were plucked from the water. One woman lost her grip and plunged back into the river and a fireman dived in after her. He pulled her safely ashore.

An elderly man aboard the jet sacrificed his life by pushing five other passengers to safety before he presumably went under the ice and drowned. "He made everyone else go first," said Donald Usher, the pilot of the rescue helicopter that plucked five people from the river.

"He could have gone on the first trip," said Mr Usher. "We threw the ring to him first but he passed it to somebody else," a man

who was bleeding badly from a head injury.

"We went back five times, and each time he kept passing the ring to someone else, including three ladies who were hanging on to the tail section."

Finally, after making several trips and plucking other people from the water, the helicopter returned to pick up the man who Mr Usher called "number 6".

"We stayed there for ten minutes just in the hopes he had crawled into the main part of the fuselage and found an air pocket. We stayed there quite a while looking for him and then it became obvious he had gone under."

"We really want to know who he was. That gentleman put everyone else ahead of himself. He is the real hero of this whole thing. There's no doubt about it. If you were in his situation, a hundred yards from shore and knowing that every minute you were closer to freezing to death could mean your life, I really don't think I could."

An elderly man was seen under the ice by rescue workers. He watched the rescuers trying to get to him as his life was slipping away, said Salvation Army major Harold Anderson.

"He was alive when police saw him through the ice, and he saw the rescue workers trying to get to him to get him out of the water," Mr Anderson said. "He was trying frantically to get out, but by the time they got the ice broken he was gone. They couldn't revive him."

Mr Hamilton, still in the water, became separated from a group which was being rescued. He kept hearing shouts from people on the bridge to "hang in there". Then a rescue helicopter came over head and dropped the lifebelt that saved him.

He does not remember much of what happened next until he reached the Arlington Hospital a few miles from the scene. He was calm and lucid as he spoke to reporters yesterday, despite an ugly gash over his right eye, a bloody nose, his right arm broken in a sling, and his left arm in a splint.

On the shore many ordinary citizens were trying to help the rescue. Mr Lenny Skutnik, aged 23, of Lorton, Virginia dived into the river when a woman lost her grip on a helicopter line and fell back into the water. "She cried out for help and

## Snow and Arctic winds to blame

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Jan 14

Bad weather is at least partly to blame for the crash. A low pressure area swirling around the Gulf of Mexico formed into a storm over New Orleans on Tuesday.

During the afternoon it dumped unaccustomed amounts of snow over the Gulf states and then tracked north-east during the night giving Atlanta, Georgia, its first real taste of snow this winter.

By morning the storm was off the Virginia coast and it was snowing heavily in Washington. At 1 pm the Federal Aviation Authority, which is responsible for Washington National airport, decided that the five inches of snow on the runway was too hazardous and the airport was closed for snow clearance.

The bitter conditions are blamed for at least 178 deaths, including an Alabama man who was killed when frozen tree limbs fell on him. Schools and factories are closed in many cities from Chicago, where temperatures have dropped to a record -26 Fahrenheit, to Atlanta, which recorded its lowest temperature this century.

Weathermen have glibly announced temperatures of 70, 80 even 100 degrees below zero, Fahrenheit, including "the wind chill factor". Wind chill is based on the concept that the more wind you have the faster it can carry heat from the body, thus an increase in wind speed is equivalent to a drop in temperature. "It has limited application but it is one of those things the public likes", one meteorologist said.

At football matches in Cincinnati on Sunday it was reported that because of a wind chill factor of -39 Fahrenheit the breath of the fans obscured the view of the game. Chicago firemen fighting a spectacular factory blaze with a wind chill temperature of -100 Fahrenheit found the water soaking their uniforms and turning immediately to crusts of ice.

In the Gulf states yesterday's snow was greeted with surprised amusement at first. In Jackson, Mississippi, Mr William Winter, the Governor, handed hot chocolate to revelers who built a snowman on the lawn in front of the Governor's Mansion. But frozen pipes blocked roads and snapped power lines turned earlier curiosity into severe concern by the end of the day.

The snowstorm caused havoc in the north-east. In New York it took more than five hours to drive from Wall Street to the George Washington Bridge, roughly eight miles. In New Jersey the rush-hour did not end until after 11 pm.

Elsewhere in the north-east, Buffalo, New York, was digging out from a record 24-hour snowfall of 28 in.

New York City, the Heat Complaint Bureau received more than 10,000 reports of flats without heat.

## 737 is second safest aircraft

The Boeing 737 is one of the most popular aircraft in the world and has flown millions of British package holidaymakers to Mediterranean destinations.

The United States National Transportation Safety Board in Washington said last night that in terms of fatal accidents, the 737 was the second safest aircraft operating in America between 1970 and 1979. It came behind the British-built BAC 1-11 which had no fatal accidents.

The 737's only fatal accident during the period was in December 1972 when a United Airlines aircraft crashed in a residential area on the approach to Midway Airport at Chicago. There were 45 deaths, two of them people on the ground.

"As far as we are concerned, the 737 has an excellent safety record," said a spokesman for the safety board. At Boeing's Seattle headquarters, a spokesman said the company had delivered 813 of the aircraft and had orders for a further 159. The 737s are being produced at the rate of 10 a month making it the best selling jetliner in the world.

the airport at 1 pm. The Federal Aviation Authority, which is responsible for aircraft safety, had halted all flights because several inches of snow had built up on the runways and made them very slippery. National Airport is built on reclaimed land bordering the Potomac river, and when the weather is bad flights are often delayed.

Sunset in the American capital yesterday was at 4.50 pm but as flight 90 began to take off the light was already very poor. Indeed, the weather throughout the city was so bad during the afternoon that the federal government had told all of its thousands of employees to leave for home early. The net result was a huge traffic jam across the whole city.

The 14th Street bridge, which is closest to the airport and the busiest bridge across the Potomac from the city to the commuter suburbs in Virginia, was packed with cars inching their way through the swirling snow.

Air traffic controllers in the tower could see nothing through the snow which reduced visibility at that



Using any available craft rescuers make their way across the ice-bound Potomac to the remains of the fuselage.

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## THE ARTS

## Interview

## Aiming for people's consciences

It is, reckons John Dexter, the best new play he has read in twenty years, and the most demanding for almost as long. John Higgins talks to the eminent director about his debut at the Mermaid.

Over the next couple of years John Dexter could be dropping anchor quite frequently at Puddle Dock, home of the recently reopened Mermaid Theatre. He remains as Director of Productions at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, but he has made no secret of the fact that he has been looking for a semi-permanent base in the non-lyric theatre to share his time.

It could have been the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario, but an onrush of Canadian nationalism put a stop to that. It could have been the National Theatre, but Dexter's ties with the South Bank appear to have been loosening for a long time he was an associate director, but has only been staging a play a year there, *Caligula* and *The Shoemaker's Holiday* being his last two productions, and nothing is scheduled for the immediate future. So Puddle Dock it may well be.

Dexter makes his debut there on February 17 with a new play, *The Portage to San Cristobal de A.H.*, adapted by Christopher Hampton from George Steiner's novella of the same somewhat clumsy title. Professor Steiner's first piece of fiction since *Anno Domini* originally appeared in *The Kenyon Review* in 1973. A year later it came out in abridged form under the auspices of *Granta* in this country and drew a cantankerous notice, worth of Beckmesser himself, in *The New Statesman*. Last spring, when Faber issued *Portage* in soft-back, the reception ranged from the respectful to the highly enthusiastic.

George Steiner has had links with the Mermaid, mainly through

being a patron of its junior offshoot the Molecule Theatre, and Lord Miles has in the past often pressed him for a play. Steiner's response to the last such request was to send off the appropriate copy of *The Kenyon Review*, which Miles in turn dispatched to Christopher Hampton. Dexter reckons that the resulting script is the best new play he has read in twenty years.

A.H. of the title is Adolf Hitler who, at the age of 90, is tracked down to the Brazilian rain-forests by a tiny Jewish expeditionary force. The body in the Berlin bunker is that of a carefully planted double, shot through the mouth but still revealed as a fake through dental evidence. Steiner crosscuts between the leech-infested swamps and those in high diplomatic places who have been spending much of their lives Hitler-watching. But at the core of the play and of the book are two mighty monologues, one from the Jew Lieber, who produces a litany of Hitler's vile crimes, and the other from A.H. himself, who claims sole credit for the founding of the state of Israel — "The Reich began Israel" — after pointing out that it was the British who invented concentration camps in the Boer War. It

is probably this final speech which caused *Portage* to be banned in Israel. Miles sent Dexter a copy of both play and book while he was preparing *The Shoemaker's Holiday*. Dexter was cautious enough to put four days between reading the novel, which is highly compressed and not always helped by Steiner's punctuation, and the Hampton adaptation.

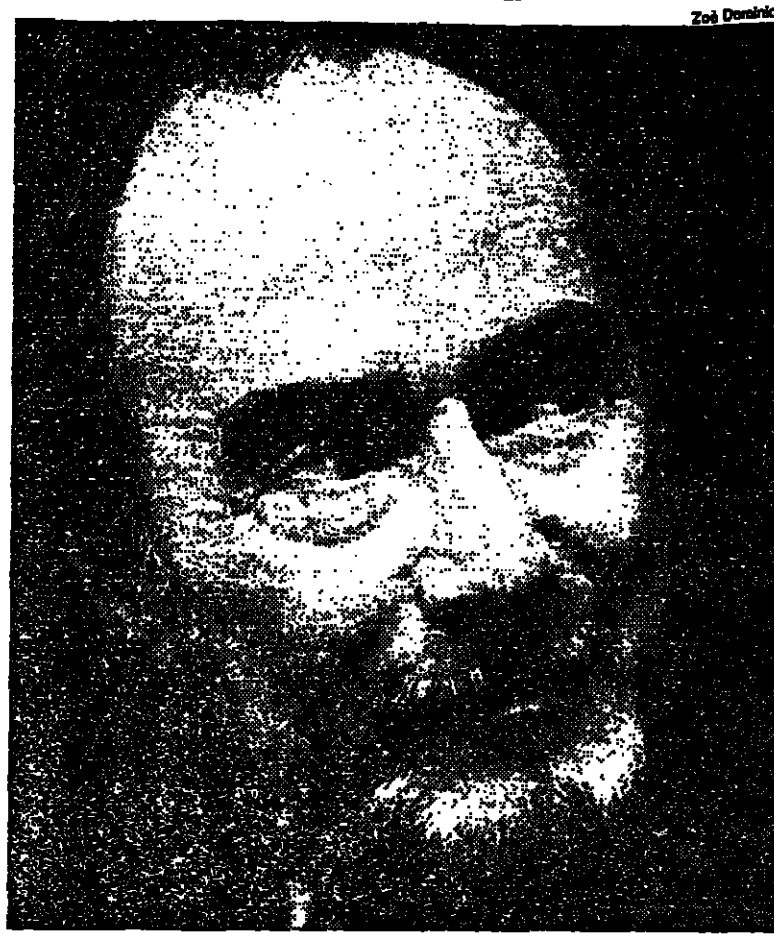
"The immediate parallels are with Shaw. The scenes outside the jungle are wryly funny; they have a satiric edge to release the tension of the pursuit and that 'portage' of Hitler back to civilization. The two great monologues we've mentioned are pure Lieber and they act as counterpoises to one another. Lieber, who provides the goad to the Brazilian expedition, delivers his litany — or, possibly better, litany — stopping short before certain words. Perhaps the images are too strong. . . . I want the actor, who will be Sebastian Shaw, to be totally devoid of emotion when he delivers the speech. And in all aware that singing this and Hitler's final monologue will be as difficult as anything in *St Joan*, say, or *Man and Superman*. "The casting of A.H. is obviously

crucial. I sent the script to Olivier in Brighton and by the next post to Alec McCowen, admitting that it had gone elsewhere. Alec's reaction was characteristic. 'I'm glad to be second choice to Larry,' he said. And Alec will be playing the part.

"The staging will be difficult, particularly in the Mermaid's open theatre. In physical terms it's probably the most demanding play I've done since *The Kitchen*. The audience must be made to listen as intently as an Old Bailey jury. The facts are presented and the issue is not whether Hitler might be innocent but whether the spectators are guilty of indifference. It is demanded of everybody that they check up morally on where they are now. At the same time it is an adventure story. We have to find a point midway between *J. Robert Oppenheimer* and *The Boys from Brazil*."

So far George Steiner has done little more than approve the script. "I hope he'll come down to the Mermaid and do a question and answer session with the cast — there is no point in my acting as a go-between. We first met only a little time ago and it was like encountering a mixture of G.B.S. and Wittgenstein. But I've been an admirer for many years. Tony Harrison introduced me to his work when he was translating *The Misanthrope* for me during the National's Waterloo Road days. I've always maintained that all my education has come via the theatre."

Dexter reckons there could be another production at the Mermaid before the end of 1982,



Dexter: 'I've always maintained that all my education has come via the theatre'

followed by two or maybe three next year. In between whiles there are revivals at the Met of *Don Carlo* (Domingo sings the title role, which he has not done for a little while), *Parade*, *Vespre siciliana* and *Enfance*. The partnership with David Hockney, which moved into round two just before

Christmas with the Stravinsky triple bill, is likely to be resumed in the mid-Eighties. Hockney has announced that he is taking two years off from the theatre to paint and, possibly, move into sculpture. If Dexter is happy at his Puddle Dock anchorage then he will be prepared to wait.

## Television

## Bravery and confusion among the Afghan guerrillas

Nick Downie is a soldier-cameraman who not only films on the spot but also writes a brilliant and doggedly fearless but knows precisely what, within each given war, a picture means. He returned from a recent spell with guerrilla fighting in Afghanistan with an historic report (TV Eye, Thames) rich in ironies and the firmly expressed view that the Afghans, sentimentally hymned in the West as "ideal" guerrilla material, are nothing of the kind.

They lack leaders of even moderate ability and the diversity of contending commands — more than 40 — far from being a strength, as

often supposed, is a disaster. They march down the middle of the road in full view of enemy outposts (taking Downie with them) and they patrol the suburbs of Kandahar in bands of four that scatter up the alleys of the bazaar with hands over their ears when government forces send up (doubtless ill-aimed) shells in a barrage of de-moralising drumming. Yet they are certainly brave, the Russians do nothing, and the war goes on.

Guerrillas may control 80 per cent of the country, but since the remaining 20 includes all the main cities, airports and the road back

home to the north, the Russians have no need of more. Downie defined their presence as "a cheap holding operation" pending developments in the Gulf, though whether they have been very clever or very stupid indeed neither they nor we nor Mr Downie with the guerrillas can yet dare to say.

Meanwhile, several centuries later and back on these islands, men worry about the decline in community spirit and of their attractiveness to women due to the clogging of follicles. Dennis Marks directed a film, improbably for the Bristol Arts Unit, about a hundred years of

change in Govan on the Clyde. Nothing Without Work (BBC2) was touching and informative for ignorant Sassies, but rather vague with its oral evidence since the rich Glaswegian voices were rarely allowed faces to match, and depressingly predictable in historical detail to anyone familiar with the physical and spiritual emasculation of the great Victorian cities of England.

Indeed the most joyful sight of the evening was that of the egg-bald and altogether magnificent Duncan Goodhew peeling off a wet wig to reveal his contented true self in "The Great Cover-Up", John Perci-

val's splendid film about male vanity and baldness (Forty Minutes, BBC2). Only the thinning Percival himself approached Goodhew's Olympian self-adjustment; for the rest of the chaps it was a history of humiliation, anxious and evasive combing, oxidized hairpieces, flap grafts, hairweaving and scalp reduction. I do not know which was more upsetting: the unmade road of Frankenstein stitches across the brow or the welling of tiny, scarlet craters round the head, whilst the toes curled in distress.

Michael Ratcliffe

## Opera

## Charming Cavalli

## Egisto

## Theatre Royal, Glasgow

Scottish Opera audiences have not until now seen an opera by Monteverdi's chief scores, *Il Rincampo* and *Calisto* have so entertained audiences at Glyndebourne and elsewhere. Three years ago the Glasgow-based company decided to take Cavalli's *Egisto* into repertoire, using the edition by Raymond Leppard, and the production by John Cox with settings by Allen Charles Klein, that had been given at Santa Fe in 1974.

It has taken those three variously fraught years to assemble and prepare the necessary forces. On Wednesday *Egisto* had its British premiere, one that showed Scottish Opera back in smart shape. The production will be toured quite widely (London in March), including a visit to Venice where *Egisto* was first performed in 1643. Tomorrow's performance will be broadcast on Radio 3, and a television film is on the way.

*Egisto* was the sixth of Cavalli's 32 known operas, a representative sample of his art. The plot is quite simple, almost frivolous. Two pairs of lovers have been separated and re-paired neatly with their opposite numbers. The gods, notably Apollo and Venus, with the aid of Cupid, contrive to restore their original pairing.

According to the fashion of the period, love scenes alternate with comedy and solemnity, and extra characters diversify the action: Beauty and Sensuality, Night and Dawn, Phaedra and other heroines who die for love, the Seasons, Hipparchus ruler of the island of Zacynthus where the action takes place, and his elderly nanny (a travesty part, here excellently sung, and portrayed with sublime comic tact, by Frances Egerton).

The simple story moves slowly, but Cavalli's music, as usual, is spirited, melodious, charming; the solemn scenes of divine intervention in the affairs of mankind are chiefly likely to hang fire, though Cox and Klein offer a compensating colour and movement. Klein's permanent set is itself a delight to observe, a Zodiac disc in blue and white, with flowers and twinkling lights, and with planets overhead, gods descending from the flies, geyser of steam, plentiful spectacles.

*Aida*

Coliseum

Some of the lingering frost outside seemingly found its way inside and into the voices at the English National Opera's revival of *Aida* on Wednesday. It was not a performance to be remembered for the quality of its singing and Sir Charles Mackerras, who conducted, sought a balance between some indulgence over vocal shortcomings and a compensating spirit from the orchestra. In the result he dispensed a fair amount of feeling through the music but little tension.

Possibly the lack of dramatic character was to some extent the fault of the production, which has been revived this time by David Collins in the heavyweight black and gold designs by Stefanos Lazaridis, imposing on our credibility one of the most structurally improbable sets ever put on the stage.

Geoff Brown

David Robinson has 'flu

## Theatre

## Playing the Game

## King's Head

The line "What's it to you?" has always struck me as an infallible sign of mediocre stagecraft, and no doubt my view of Jeffrey Thomas's play is coloured by the fact that he uses it twice.

Playing the Game is another fearless exposure of boardroom sport, dwelling on petty greed and internal politics, and leading inexorably to the moment where some big shot slides up to the star player aside with the proposition: "The game's turning into big business. . . there might be a little something for you."

Mr Thomas varies this formula by giving his piece the relatively uncommercialized setting of a Welsh rugby club, and by running his first theme in tandem with the theme of sport as a means of holding women at bay. The lights go up on the stage of the new captain, Keith, in bed with the sex-starved wife of the club chairman. But no sooner does she set foot on the hallowed male territory of the committee room than Keith rapidly brings the affair to a halt.

At such moments, Mr Thomas pays the price of aiming at two targets instead of one. Keith may turn against Nancy because she has broken a sexual taboo, or because she may spoil his chances as a player. There is no way of telling; and so his character remains undefined — evasive, team-spirited, mean and kindly by turns; all you can say of him is that he wants to get on.

The same goes for all the others. Mr Thomas has taken to heart the rule that a dramatic character is a man who wants something. Les, the chairman, wants to become a tour manager; Kevin, the thriving young treasurer, wants Lee's job; Nancy wants an active bed partner; Evie, the old club secretary, wants to preserve the status quo, particularly the rule excluding women from the pre-match parties.

The stress of these competing interests is underlined with the story-line, yielding committee meetings littered with digressions and trailing plot-pointers, manufactured crises where (twice) characters conveniently burst on just in time to see a woman being knicked, and shrill interventions by the author such as a scene where an angry stripper (Arbel Jones) does herself out of a night's work by telling a few home truths about all-male get-togethers.

Gruffudd Jones's production heavily underlines the play's distaste for the rugby fraternity, old and new, offering at best one nicely withdrawn performance by Dorian Thomas and an unavoidably florid chairman by Terence Davies.

Irving Wardle

## Who's a Hero?

## Old Half Moon

Draw a diagram of *Who's a Hero?* and there is no need for the drama. Drama bubbles up in Marcus Brent's play, in fact slashes out with knives and violence, but even before his last explanatory scene there is no mistaking the scheme of his design. He sketches two parallel English societies, one viciously working class and one squarely middle class, and then he makes a football hooligan scene where he is mistaking the scheme of his design. He sketches two parallel English societies, one viciously working class and one squarely middle class, and then he makes a football hooligan scene where he is mistaking the scheme of his design. He sketches two parallel English societies, one viciously working class and one squarely middle class, and then he makes a football hooligan scene where he is mistaking the scheme of his design.

There is a purpose to these parallels, and it is the obvious woolly purpose of demonstrating that all violence is equal, whether the patriotism that prompts it is for England or Chelsea FC. The bone of contention, as it were, that brings the worlds together is the daughter of the war hero, a cheerful housewife slave who has an affair with the hooligan and sets out to reform him, much to the father's annoyance.

Diversions are offered by liberal applications of Freudian feelings in the father's affection, by a plot to beat up the gradually reforming hooligan and through working-class conversations in the requisite street vernacular. The contrasting bourgeois speeches are strange approximations of literacy, with the girl speaking of her hooligan as a man who "turned his back on a whole idiom."

Yet the young company engage the audience through their obvious dedication and power: they fairly bristle with energy and aggression, with Joseph Peters and Colin Gallacher offering particularly vital performances. It is hardly their fault if the wasteful lives they represent seem much more important than the tightly liberal philosophy of the girl, despite the sympathetic performance by Harriet St. Johnstone. Mr Brent supplies her with slogans enough to get through the play, but the worthiness of her point of view is too clumsy a statement of the play's intention.

Ned Chaillet

Noël Goodwin

## Cinema

## Crackling relish for the American bizarre

## Cutter's Way (X)

Cinecenta; Gate, Notting Hill; Screen on the Green

## Rich and Famous (X)

Plaza 1

## Detour

Electric Cinema Club

## First Monday in October (AA)

ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

## Shock Treatment (A)

Classics, Chelsea and Haymarket

The American thriller *Cutter's Way* is a film to rejoice in. For one thing, it is a good film, with a rich and quirky cinematic texture, beautifully modulated performances and a sharply worded script. For another, it is a good film by Ivan Passer, the Czech-born director and past associate of Milos Forman who fled his homeland in 1968 just before the Russian invasion. Forman managed to maintain his individuality in America with *Taking Off* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, but Passer has had a difficult time, producing films uncertain in style and achievement; his last, the lamentable *Silver Bears*, had no style at all. But he clearly responded to the material of *Cutter's Way* (a novel, *Cutter and Bone*, by Newton Thornbury); the film crackles with a foreigner's relish for the bizarre aspects of American life.

*Cutter* is a crippled Vietnam veteran who stalks the bars of Santa Barbara (on the Californian coast) with eyepatch, stick, boisterous rage and oddball humour ("Calcutta — Black Hole speaking"), he croaks when answering the phone). Bone, far more placid, is his best friend and an accidental witness to the dumping of a murdered girl's body in an alley trashcan. Once Bone recognizes the dumper as local tycoon J. J. Cord, *Cutter* embarks on a blackmail scheme. Bone recoils, *Cutter* forges ahead; people, as they say, get killed.

Baldly expressed, the story seems a routine case of murder and revenge. But Passer and his collaborators give such a detailed texture to the plot-line becomes



Violence threatens at the polo club: John Heard and Jeff Bridges in "Cutter's Way"

inseparable from matters of characterization and atmosphere. From the early scenes of preparations for the Santa Barbara Fiesta, when white horses are ridden through rain-slick streets shuddering with thunder and lightning, Passer depicts a community where the exotic is tinged with threatening violence. *Cutter's* own disruptive energy is deliberately unleashed in formal, establishment settings: the polo club, the climactic party at Cord's mansion.

*Cutter's Way* also presents us with living, tangled relationships — specifically between *Cutter*, Bone and *Cutter's* wife Mo, condemned to wait and drink while her husband rosters and fulminates. The performances of John Heard, Jeff Bridges and Lisa Eichhorn deserve all the superlatives, though they never give star turns. Their strength lies rather in their ensemble playing, in the gestures and reactions that accompany the dialogue (splendidly written by Jeffrey Alan Fiskin). By the end of the film the tangles in these relationships remain, which may displease those who like their thrillers neatly packaged with clear solutions. But Passer's way seems much more satisfying, and the film reverberates in the mind long after the end credits.

The director of *Rich and Famous* had none of Passer's trouble in establishing a reputation. When Passer was born, in 1933, George Cukor was already at the megaphone directing MGM's leading lights in *Dinner at Eight* and *Little Women*. The mere survival of such a glittering veteran into the film industry of the Eighties is cause for celebration, though it must be said that *Rich and Famous* merits little applause on its own. This is an updated version of *Old Acquaintance*, John Van Druten's 1940 play about two schoolgirl chums growing up, sharing the same trade (writing), and almost sharing the same husband. Warner Brothers filmed it with typical flourish in 1943. Bette Davis played the sensitive writer of sensitive novels — a part now taken,

with surprising success, by Jacqueline Bisset. Miriam Hopkins hewed the scenery of the flighty concubine best-seller, Candice Bergen by comparison is far more restrained. But no amount of careful acting by the female stars can rescue *Rich and Famous*.

For this is a film in limbo, trapped between Van Druten's implacably quaint material and its new contemporary coating. Gerald Ayres's script is flecked with four-letter words, while a character cast as a naval officer in 1943 is hilariously transformed into a *Rolling Stone* reporter. Cukor also makes a regrettable effort to earn the film's X certificate. On the other hand *Rich and Famous* succumbs to a fair number of clichés from Hollywood's golden age. There is shallow cultural chit-chat about Proust, Yeats and company; there are moments of soggy romance, with log fires crackling, wineglasses clinking and Georges Delerue's music sweetly throbbing on the soundtrack. But behind all these postures, new and old, there is very little emotional substance, though the last scene of all carries an undeniable charge. "We've accomplished a lot in a hell of a lifetime," says Jacqueline Bisset as these two old friends ponder by the fireplace, New Year drinks in hand. So indeed has George Cukor; but let us remember his real accomplishments, rather than *Rich and Famous*.

The accomplishments of Edgar G. Ulmer, whose 1946 film *Detour* is revived for a week at the Electric Cinema Club from Sunday, could not be more different. Ulmer, one of Hollywood's many emigres from Germany, worked at the bottom and of the market. Cukor had the giants of MGM to pick from; on a good day Ulmer got Zachary Scott. Cukor could summon Hollywood's most literate scriptwriters; Ulmer's scripts were impossibly uncouth and banal, from the titles onwards — *Girls in Chains*, *Isle of Forgotten Sins*, *Daughter of Doctor Phelix*. Rumour has it that *Detour*, made for



David Watt

# Moscow and Poland: don't let Yalta cloud the issue

Did Churchill and Roosevelt really "sell" the Poles to Stalin at the Yalta conference in February 1945? This skeleton has just tumbled out of the cupboard again, disturbed by the deepening debate over the present Polish crisis. Those who ask the question (mostly in the American press) tend to hope, and therefore assume, that the answer is "Yes".

In an atmosphere of crusading indignation it is edifying and obscurely comforting to contemplate an earlier "great betrayal" — the more muted approach justifies strong action and absolves us from responsibility for the present parlous state of affairs. The last time there was a Yalta conference was in the first half of the 1950s at the height of the cold war, the era of John Foster Dulles and Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Historically speaking, the charge does not stand up for the reason given by Sir Ian Gilmour on television the other day to Mr Denis Healey (who should know better) — that there was nothing Churchill or Roosevelt could have done to rescue Poland from the Russian grip.

No doubt it was naive, possibly even disingenuous, of the two western leaders to try to bind Stalin to the vague terms of the so-called Yalta Declaration on Liberated Europe which said that the three great powers would concert their policies in order to assure the liberated people of Europe "representative and democratic governments, responsive to the will of the people". It was also a mistake to accede so easily to, and even encourage, Soviet territorial ambitions by picking up pre-war Poland and moving it 200 miles westwards into Germany.

But Mr George Kennan, a former United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union and a noted commentator, was surely right to say that

"the peoples in question had for the most part fallen into communist hands by February 1945 or would have done so anyway in the course of the military operations of the war and once in control Moscow would not have dreamed of letting them go just because of a lack of Allied approval". If the western powers had managed to open a successful second front much earlier than June 1944 or had concluded an earlier peace treaty with Hitler on terms other than unconditional surrender, they might have ensured that the Allied and Soviet armies met further east than they actually did and so have forestalled subsequent events. But it requires enormous doses of historical hindsight to blame them seriously for these "errors".

If we can thus rescue the Yalta question from the moral chains that have been placed on it, we can look at the present Polish problem in a more realistic light. It ceases to be a matter of guilt and atonement and becomes, as it should, a matter of deciding what we can do to alleviate an unjust and deplorable situation which like so many of the world's injustices, lies at present outside the scope of our physical power and within someone else's.

Are we prepared to extend our own scope and reduce that of the Soviet Union by force? Since 1948 the western Allies have tried to contain the expansion of Soviet power, but we have not despite a brief period of rhetoric in the 1950s, made any direct attempt to "roll back the frontiers of communism". When we refused to intervene militarily to prevent the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, we showed that in practice we recognized the reality of a Soviet sphere of influence in eastern Europe.

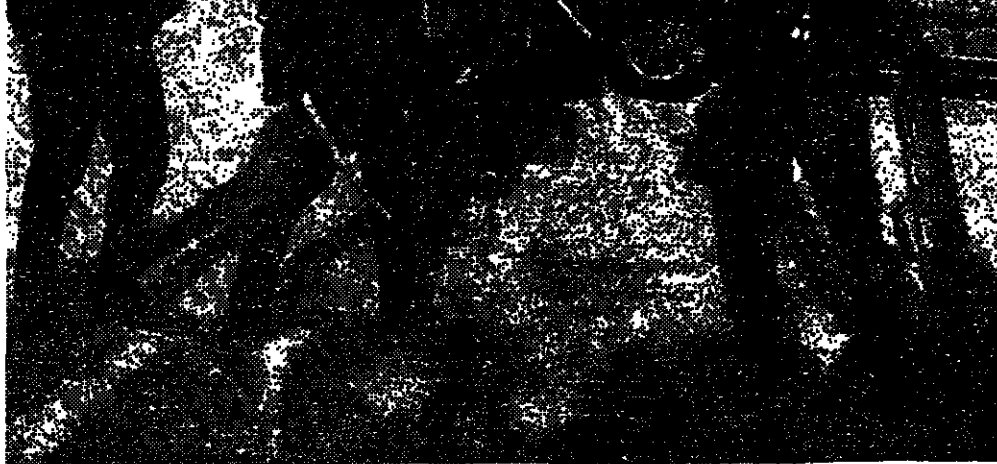
This was confirmed when we allowed the Russian

troops to march into Prague and reconfirmed when we indicated the limits of our response to a possible Soviet intervention in Poland this winter. The 1975 Helsinki agreement was another attempt to bind the Russians and their east European clients to liberalizing procedures, but it did not and could not alter the underlying physical domination of eastern Europe by the USSR.

Of course, one has only to whisper "sphere of influence" to be instantly denounced, particularly in the US, on grounds of cynicism and immorality. The natural idealism of the American people combines with the emotional preoccupations of powerful blocks of ethnic groups to produce a like opposition to anything sounding remotely like acceptance of the status quo. But there is confusion here about the word "acceptance". When Margaret Fuller was told that Margaret Fuller replied, "God, she'd better!" The same might be said of Soviet ascendancy in eastern Europe. We do not accept it in the sense of approving or endorsing it or even regarding it as in any way legitimate, but we are obliged to accept it as fact.

The same is true of the American exercise of power in central and south America, which is equally a fact, whether or not we approve of it. What flows from this? Not that we should not try to modify or undermine the Soviet sphere of influence or even, perhaps, the some radical changes, unwelcome to Washington, within the American sphere of influence should not be encouraged.

The point is simply one of prudence. Where a sphere of influence is firmly established, the great power concerned will usually defend it more resolutely and aggressively, than any other interest except the security



Polish troops, wearing gas masks, on duty in Gdansk: can the West really be blamed for events leading to Poland's present troubles?

of its own territory. The power that challenges it is therefore taking greater risks with the stability of the international system than if a confrontation takes place on relatively neutral or unclaimed ground.

The American sphere of influence, for instance, was modified by the Cuban revolution in 1960 and the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation to overthrow Castro; the Russians then overplayed their hand in the Cuban missile crisis and failed to make further progress. The walls were undermined briefly again by the Allende interlude in Chile but the Americans clamped down with the help of a military surrogate and the sphere was restored until the latest sapping operation in central America and the Caribbean threatened it once more.

With the exception of the missile crisis, which evidently taught them an important lesson, the Russians have proceeded with a caution very different from their actions in, say, Africa, and with good reason. A direct assault on the American hemisphere would undoubtedly have provoked a

violent reaction from an American president and jeopardized the entire super-power relationship. The Soviet superintendence over eastern Europe is far tighter and more onerous than the American in Latin America and is therefore morally much more objectionable. But in terms of the behaviour of the main actors the principles are the same. The west has attempted to nibble away at the integrity of the Soviet system over the years by economic encouragement, by propaganda and by political detente. And contrary to the fashionable Washington view, it has had some limited successes. The Hungarian would not have got so far and the Polish experiment would not even have begun without detente. We have also helped to deny the Russians the satisfaction of reintegrating Yugoslavia into their block.

But the United States has not hitherto risked a major confrontation with the Russians in order to push back the frontiers. This is partly because America has taken a cautious view of the dangers involved and partly because, as Mr Helmut Sonnenfeldt,

Dr Kissinger's aide, said in 1976, if we wish to encourage a looser organic relationship between the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, "any excess of zeal on our part is bound to produce results that reverse the desired process for a period of time, even though the process would remain inevitable within the next 100 years".

This does not mean that the West should immediately abandon the progress made by the Poles, although it might be argued that Solidarity is reaping the consequences of "excessive zeal". On the contrary, we should continue to do our damndest to protect these gains and be prepared to pay a price for them. Nevertheless, if we are to pursue justice in the Soviet sphere of influence we must expect the operation to be very much harder and riskier than usual.

That is not a reason for running away, but it is an emphatic argument for the cool calculation of costs as well as benefits. The conjuncture of the spectre of Yalta is no aid to such a process. © Times Newspapers Limited, 1982

# Everything that Roy should know about his new patch

by Ivor Crewe

On paper, Glasgow, Hillhead, looks like the SDP-Liberal Alliance's best prospect of the four by-elections it has contested. In the Alliance's terms it offers the ideal combination of "high base" and "low peak".

Unlike Warrington and Crosby it presents no impossible heights to scale. In 1979 the Conservative majority was only 6.7 per cent; and compared with the almost as marginal Crofton North West, there is a stronger Liberal base on which to build — 14.4 per cent against Crofton's 10.5 per cent — despite the competition from the Scottish Nationalist Party for the anti-two party vote. Applying the swings suggested by last month's national polls gives Mr Jenkins a comfortable victory with about 45 per cent of the vote.

Yet the psephological signs do not all point one way. For the Alliance there are four imponderables, each of which may lose it votes. The first is the constituency's social structure.

It is socially mixed but, in contrast to Crofton North West, far from being socially middling. Of Britain's 623 constituencies it ranks 19th in the size of its professional middle class, but it also ranks 15th for overcrowded housing (households with three rooms or fewer). It is in fact a mix of three quite distinct elements: a poor, under-employed, badly housed working class; a prosperous, well educated and predominantly middle-aged to elderly middle class; and a young, single people, mainly students. The danger to the Alliance is that the first two groups will remain loyal to the Labour and Conservative parties, and that the more promising third group will be too mobile and uncommitted to turn out in sufficient numbers.

One social feature, however, makes Hillhead a particularly good proposition for the SDP. It contains the best educated electorate in the whole of Britain. No other constituency has as high a proportion of electors with two A levels to their name — not only staff and students of Glasgow University, but a middle class that works in the professions and services rather than, as in the case of Crosby, commerce and manufacturing. Data on SDP membership strongly suggests that it is more than any other social stratum that the Alliance appeals.

The second unknown factor is the "Scottish dimension". In Scotland, it is argued, Labour's support is holding up whereas the Alliance's advance has been modest. Swings based on the most recent Scottish poll put Labour and the Alliance neck and neck — just as the first local Hillhead polls have been showing.

It is also rare to field outside candidates in Scotland, especially at a by-election — and risky, as Labour discovered in Dundee East in 1973, when a local engineer from Sheffield, Mr Jenkins is bound to be accused of using Hillhead to further his interests rather than the constituents', an exposed position to be in when the three other main candidates will probably all have local connexions.

These arguments almost certainly exaggerate the importance of the Scottish dimension. Hillhead is possibly the least Scottish of the Glasgow constituencies in

sentiment or origins, many of its middle class having English roots or a British outlook. It is poor territory for the SNP, which lost its deposit in two of the last three elections, consistently polling below its average for both Scotland (7 to 10 per cent) and Glasgow.

Nor should the Alliance's support in Scotland be underplayed. After taking account of the extra party in Scotland, support for the Alliance has been no more than three or four percentage points higher in England than north of the border. The Scottish issue may well turn out to be as marginal as private education was in Crosby or as Mr Jenkins's rounded vowels were in Warrington.

A third potential threat to Mr Jenkins is that social change in the constituency is gradually making it better for the Labour Party. The large, Victorian, family houses are being converted into flats and bachelors. Between February 1974 and 1979 the Conservative to Labour swing was 6.5 per cent, compared with 1.6 per



Roy Jenkins: there are risks at Hillhead

cent in Scotland as a whole. Labour's vote rose 10 percentage points. But factors peculiar to Hillhead were probably not responsible since the swing was similar to that throughout Glasgow (6 per cent).

The fourth and potentially most serious uncertainty for the Alliance is the electoral impact of the quarrel over the share-out of parliamentary seats. If the arguments rumble on spasmodically the damage will probably be small. But the possibility of their erupting into a major breach between now and polling day cannot be ruled out.

On balance, Mr Jenkins was almost certainly right to plump for Hillhead. The chance of a more promising by-election turning up within the next nine months where the Liberals will stand down is very slim. But there are risks for Mr Jenkins. In politics there always are.

Ivor Crewe

The author is Director of the SSRC Survey Archive and co-Director of the British Election Study, both at the University of Essex.

# Why Lord Rothschild should not swing the axe

Leads suggest that Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph would like to dismantle the Social Science Research Council; he has appointed Lord Rothschild to look into its use of Government money. Robert Jones disentangles myth and fact.

The axe has been handed to a gentleman of cast-iron integrity, but also to someone whose starting position is unlikely to be favourable to the Social Science Research Council. Lord Rothschild has been a strong advocate of government departments placing research contracts directly with the universities rather than acting through intermediaries like the SSRC. The approach favoured by Lord Rothschild is "the customer says what he wants; the contractor does it (if he can); and the customer pays." This is at the opposite end of the spectrum to a traditional view of university research, where the individual academic pursues research which he considers important in his discipline, subject only to the judgment of his academic peers.

Bodies like the SSRC seek to perform a delicate balancing act between nurturing academic inquiry for its own sake and pushing it in the direction of research that is relevant to major problems facing the country.

Its position is complicated by the fact that the present chairman, Mr Michael Posner, is in the middle of a vigorous attempt to reform the council's structure and change the balance of its work. This has not been achieved without a good deal of ruffling of academic feathers.

Fortunately it is relatively easy to penetrate the academic crossfire and look at the facts of what the SSRC has been doing with our money. The 1981 report lists the details of more than 800 research grants.

It is possible to have a good deal of fun at the expense of the SSRC by picking out grants which may appear to be a frivolous use of public money at a time of economic crisis. For instance: "The transcription and analysis of the sixteenth century internal accounts of Merton College, Oxford — £4,900" and "Investigation into the history of the pastoralism of Kenya — £4,808". There is even one into the organization of the Conservative Party — £22,878.

But look further at grants of over £50,000: a total of 62 awards amounting to £5.1m. I have categorized them "relevant" to a country facing a severe economic crisis and having serious social problems relating to unemployment

and ethnic minorities, "esoteric" and "doubtful". I found only five that could be labelled "esoteric", including: "Diversified householding and labour process in the Andes" (£81,494) and "A machine-readable index of eighteenth century fire insurance registers — £52,173". I found only five that could be called doubtful, including, for instance, a study of conventions and other religions in Leeds — £90,579.

All the remainder, worth no less than £5.4m, came under relevant. The overwhelming proportion of the big money goes into economic policy, economic modelling, business studies, employment, work studies, children's learning problems, office and shop location and transport policy studies. Typical titles are "Industrial change in North-Western England", "Responses to Steel Redundancies" and "Children's maths strategies and errors".

In addition the SSRC spends £1m a year supporting five university research units in population studies, socio-legal studies, industrial relations, ethnic relations and the social psychology of work. It also allocates the £9m of government money provided for post-graduate grants in social science, a job the Department of Education and Science would have to

take on if the SSRC were abolished.

The big money analysis also gives the lie to the notion that the council is predominantly funding sociologists and left-wing radicals at that. Much of the money goes to economists, geographers and psychologists, and the citadels of monetarism — the London Business School and the City University — are at least as well represented as schools with a left-wing reputation. And the later allocation of studentship breaks down as to management and industrial relations — 179, economics — 122, sociology and social administration — 90.

A more serious problem is the unbridgeable gulf between the sceptics who doubt the value of any social science research, alleging that its results are common sense covered by jargon, and the social scientists who tend to believe that the major problems of the world are those of human behaviour and organization which social science attempts to study.

The sceptics are unlikely to be convinced but the figures show that the dice are already heavily loaded against the social sciences. The SSRC budget of £20m a year compares with the £342m that goes to the physical sciences via the Science and Engineering

Research Council and the Medical Research Council.

It seems not unlikely that Lord Rothschild will acquit the SSRC of the wider charges against it. There remains the possibility that he will still recommend its abolition and a switch to direct contracts. The argument for that approach is that it gives the customer — the government department — more control over the use of the money. The main arguments against are twofold. The timescale of government departments is too short because it is dominated by the possibility of political masters changing at least every five years. Most research must be planned on a longer timescale.

The second is the problem of the "disappearing customer" which has been identified in contracts placed both by private companies and government departments. A person identifies a real problem, then moves off to another job in the company. Someone else moves in to his job who is not committed to solving this problem, but more interested in others. The role of the research council is to keep the academic plugging away at such a difficult problem, which may take years to solve, and which are unlikely, therefore, to help the

promotion prospects of employees of the customer.

This case can, and no doubt will be, argued vigorously both ways, in front of Lord Rothschild. But the argument looks a little academic when put in the context of the threat facing university research in general from the government cuts.

Most university research is funded through the University Grants Committee. It is understood that academics spend a proportion of their time on research, so that perhaps a quarter of the UGC's annual grant to the universities of over £800m can be regarded as funding research. The research time is presently being severely squeezed, because the effect of the cuts is to push up staff-student ratios and reduce available time for research.

It will not be clear for some time just how serious the effect on research will be. But it does certainly seem an odd time for the Government to be considering abolishing one of the few bodies it can use to ensure that research relevant to national problems is being undertaken.

Robert Jones

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# Pop goes the old Eton tuckshop

Sad news for old Etonians. The school's historic tuckshop is no more. A small stream has been eating away at the foundations of the three storey listed building and it is now in danger of falling down. — the outside walls, for instance, are leaning out by 3in. A new tuckshop speciality: "brown cow" — coca cola with ice cream on top has been established in one of the school's former boarding houses but it won't be the same.

The old building will not be demolished, however, but pulled down brick by brick and faithfully rebuilt. A spokesman for the architects says: "We'll measure and mark everything as we take it down so we can rebuild it exactly. We want to salvage as many bricks, tiles and windows as possible."

The house, known as Rowlands, is the most prominent building in Eton High Street and the operation is, apparently, costing a fortune. It will be rebuilt, however, not as a tuckshop but as a luxurious four-bedroom master's house, complete with study.

The architects, Stribling and Partners, say: "It is certainly not a commercial proposition to rebuild this house. The house's market value would be about £80,000 but there's no way in which you could do the job for that." No wonder the school's fees run to £3,600 a year.

# THE TIMES DIARY



Peter Brook, whose current staging of *Carmen* in Paris is a huge success, must be relieved that he is not associated with the French production of the same opera that has just opened in Peking. The night was on January 1, and four days later it was threatened with closure on the grounds of its "shocking immorality," but it was then reprised until the seventh, when its French director left. The cultural world of Peking is now holding its collective breath to see whether it will tour the provinces.

## Winning remarks

It was extremely difficult to decide which of this column's many correspondents on practical uses of the social sciences should win the bottle of champagne. Unlike other competitors in the Diary this one has involved a serious thought (though I suppose some would also call hangovers serious). Michael Posner, chairman of the Social Science Research Council, tells me that the Diary this one has involved a serious thought (though I suppose some would also call hangovers serious). Michael Posner, chairman of the Social Science Research Council, tells me that the Diary this one has involved a serious thought (though I suppose some would also call hangovers serious).

Hendry, professor of economics at Nuffield College, deserve special mention. I am happy to point that out but in the end I have chosen the winner, Jennifer Platt, of Brighton. Her choice seems to me to contain the best mix of "hard" social sciences (economics, management science) and the "soft" variety (psychology, social psychiatry). And her choices are, of course, eminently practical, as the following shows: "Michael Young and Peter Williams are finding that a form of the extended family was still alive and well in Bethnal Green in the 1950s, with much mutual aid

between nominally separate households. They related this to housing policy and it has had considerable influence on the whole approach to the planning of re-housing."

John Woodward and her team's discovery that there is not just one most appropriate management structure for industrial firms, but that the most successful companies have a management structure that is adapted to their technology. This has radically changed thinking about management.

George Brown and Tirril Harris's finding, in a model of meticulously careful research, of the social causes of depression among women. They show that there are vulnerability factors, that where these are present provoking factors initiate the depression, and then there are symptom formation factors which affect the form that the depression takes. They demonstrate that these factors combine to produce particularly high rates of depression among working class women with children at home.

Since the Social Science Research Council turned down my request for a grant, to discover the Duke of Buckingham and the Earl of Shrewsbury. You will remember that Buckingham "so far forgot himself as to indulge in an amour" with Lady Shrewsbury, wife of the Earl. Confronted by evidence he could not overlook there was no alternative but to fight.

What made their duel so memorable was the fact that Lady Shrewsbury disguised herself as a page and attended the duel, on Barnes Common, where the Earl, the only innocent party in the affair, was so badly wounded that he died within a week. Pepys commented: "This will make the world think that the King hath



On Wednesday, I read Pepys's comments on the duel between the Duke of Buckingham and the Earl of Shrewsbury. You will remember that Buckingham "so far forgot himself as to indulge in an amour" with Lady Shrewsbury, wife of the Earl. Confronted by evidence he could not overlook there was no alternative but to fight.

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good councillors about him, taking things a bit far, although I trust that comment will provoke no one.

Then, in yesterday morning's papers, came the court report of two Norfolk men who had put the clock back and fought a duel of honour, complete with seconds, over the wife of one of them. Duelling is clearly one of those odd backwaters of behaviour that refuses to die out. Since the Second World War there have been several cases of duelling in Europe. The last I have been able to find occurred in Ipswich in 1977, when a 14-year-old schoolboy suffered stomach wounds in a duel with a fellow pupil at St Joseph's College in the town. This too was over a mutual girlfriend.

There have been at least seven duels at Oxford and Cambridge since the war, employing sabres, rapiers, umbrellas and champagne corks. And of course the "fighting fraternalism" of the Cornish universities also refuse to go away, making periodic reappearances at Heidelberg and elsewhere.

Most notably of course, was the case of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the Irish dramatist. At one time he was so in love with a lady in Bath that when he read a paragraph about her, impugning her character, he challenged the journalist, concerned to wound him in a fight, and compelled him to sign a retraction. This so incensed the journalist that he in his turn challenged Sheridan and another fight ensued in which the playwright's ear was injured. Sheridan then married the said

woman, which seems to me to be taking things a bit far, although I trust that comment will provoke no one.

## Art with heart

I found Sir Hugh Casson, the resident of the Royal Academy, in fighting form yesterday when he launched a virtuoso attack against Britain's artless buildings. He was opening a campaign to persuade artists and architects to depart their respective ivory towers and colourless offices, and collaborate in building a civilized environment. Hear, hear. The campaign will culminate in an art and architecture conference at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London next month to improve modern building design.

The ingenious Sir Hugh, 71, admitted he has his own problems (suffering from what he termed "symptoms of maturity"), he failed to recognize seven of 12 photographs of national sculptures shown him by a journalist during an interview earlier in the day; but he regained control of his faculties to call for a rapprochement between the artists and architects who shape our built environment.

He said: "Everyone — artists, patrons and architects — has lost the nerve and the habit of collaboration. The time has come to persuade them to get together again." Artists, he said, remained locked within the confines of private creativity and architects confined themselves to designing artless buildings.

Peter Watson





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## PUBLIC INEFFICIENCY

This week's admission by its chairman that British Telecom last year achieved absolutely no improvements in productivity and double the national rate of price inflation at least had the virtue of honesty. But confessions of delinquency are of little consolation to the victim public unless as a prelude to better behaviour. On past experience in the public sector there are few grounds to hope for internally generated improvements in efficiency. Management find a cosy convenience in going along with lax work practices and have even, as in Gas, joined with the unions to resist efforts by Government to shake them up. As with local government, the public industries have increasingly been run for the benefit and convenience of those who work in them, with too little concern for either their customers or the taxpayers who finance their extravagance.

It is of course a crude simplification to think of the nationalized sector as a single animal. It contains manufacturing, mining and services; monopolies, quasi-monopolies and industries experiencing fierce international competition. Much of it is subject to 5 per cent targets of real return on capital which would prove beyond much of private industry. The capital intensive parts of it with heavy fixed costs suffer particularly badly during a recession. Degrees of inefficiency vary. But by international standards none is satisfactorily efficient. The postal services, electricity and gas servicing and all public utility retailing have grown fat and lazy under monopolistic protection. Last year British Telecom allowed a 5 per cent increase in its real unit costs, as against a target reduction of 5 per cent, which is disgraceful.

This is not to say that the pursuit of harsh efficiency should be the sole and sensible objective for a nationalized industry. Social considerations need to be taken into account, especially

in the transport sector. Indeed efficiency and humane service are not always in conflict: in the United States, Bell telephone provides extensive cheap public telephones, made possible by the low unit costs of the whole system. What is required, and what we do not have, are nationalized industries which are both cheap because they are efficiently and commercially run and are also humane in the sense that they accept social considerations which do not necessarily apply to private capitalist enterprise.

Here then is a substantial chunk of the British economy whose inefficiency is a drag on our national performance and a constant irritant to individual customers. For the Government, which was elected on a commitment to rectify this situation, the problem has become more acute because of this sector's inflationary impact. Management have made high pay settlements and then been able to recoup the cost by high price increases passed on to their captive consumers. In 1981 employees in public corporations earned on average nine per cent more than employees in the private sector. In 1979 the gap was only four per cent. Price and wage inflation in the whole public sector last year were roughly double the rate in the private sector. Had it not been so, Mrs Thatcher would now have single figure inflation, with all that implies for interest rates, tax rates and the public borrowing requirement. Politically and economically her Government would already be a success in terms of its own priority of defeating inflation.

Rectifying that failure would be a fruitful objective for the second half of Mrs. Thatcher's administration. The public monopolies will of course prove resistant to measures designed to make their privileged lives less comfortable. But a determined government could succeed.

The first requirement of

such a programme would be to hasten the process of increasing competition. This does not mean irrelevant gestures such as the disposal of North Sea oil assets but, for example, speeding decisions to open up the telecommunications markets and to grasp the nettle of gas retailing.

Equally important, but more difficult, is to develop central government control systems which prevent the public monopolies from simply passing on to the customer the costs of their over-manning and wage capitations. External borrowing limits are already assisting in this but they are a very blunt instrument with undesirable consequences for major investments in growth areas which would attract private participation. What may be required is some technique of labour cost limits which prevents industries from inflating their current costs beyond a target ceiling, thus forcing them to finance higher pay by increased productivity. Greater efficiency would also generate internal resources for investment: each 2 per cent off the sector wage bill would produce an additional £250 million for investment annually, sufficient to finance many of the projects currently under serious discussion.

Other fruitful measures would be to streamline and strengthen the powers of the Nationalized Industries Consumer Councils; to insist on the nationalized industries providing more information and meaningful references; and to make more references of nationalized industries to the Monopolies Commission.

Taken together these measures should elicit a better performance from the nationalized sector. In return the Government should more openly acknowledge its crucial importance to Britain's whole social and economic infrastructure and should be prepared to invest in it more public money and allow it to borrow more freely on the private markets.

## GREECE AS THE ODD MAN OUT

Mr Papandreu's government in Greece has lost little time in making its presence felt within the western groupings. This week it refused to associate itself with parts of the Nato communiqué on Poland; and that was only the latest in a series of similar moves. In December it held up for a few days agreement on a letter welcoming Spain's application to become a member of Nato. It later insisted on blocking altogether the publication of a communiqué at the end of a meeting of the alliance's defence ministers, the first time that had ever happened.

Within the European Community Greece has refused to agree to a condemnation of Libya for its intervention in Chad; and it held up agreement on the participation of Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands in the peace-keeping force for Sinai. Earlier this month Mr Papandreu summarily sacked Mr Fotilas, the deputy Foreign Minister, for approving a communiqué on Poland by the Foreign Ministers of the Ten, leaving some doubt as to how far Greece was bound by the document.

There is a clear pattern of behaviour, suggesting that Mr Papandreu's Greece not only cannot be counted on to share positions adopted by its partners, but that it sees a positive advantage in being the odd one out. This is not

altogether surprising. The Pasok party came to power with a neutralist ideology, and a commitment to pull Greece out of Nato's integrated military structure, as well as leave the European Community. In the run-up to last year's election Mr Papandreu went to some pains to qualify these commitments; and since he has been in power he has done nothing to suggest that he is on the point of leaving either Nato or the Community. He apparently believes that for the time being, at least, Greece is better off inside both organizations. But for ideological and for nationalistic reasons he wishes to assert a special identity for Greece within them both.

Ideologically, he has to show his more left-wing supporters that he is not the captive of Nato. This has the added bonus of appealing to the main, pro-Moscow Communist Party, whose votes he does not need in Parliament but which could cause difficulties through its strength in the unions. It will also do him no harm in his efforts to sell surplus oranges and lemons to the Soviet Union. So, though Greece joined the rest of Nato this week in condemning the imposition of martial law in Poland, it opted out of the sections criticizing the communist regimes in eastern Europe in general and outlining sanctions.

More broadly, the Papan-

dreou tactics appeal to many Greeks who feel that Athens has been altogether too compliant in the past in its relations with the larger Nato countries.

It does, however, present problems for Greece's partners, both in Nato and the Community. In Nato, statements like this week's on Poland are normally based on consensus and the same goes for foreign policy statements by the EEC foreign ministers. Dissent by one member is bound to weaken them somewhat, and could set a precedent. There is also the possibility that Greece might hold up the important process of Spanish entry to Nato if it chose to withhold its ratification as a negotiating tactic.

This will have to be met by a combination of flexibility and firmness. In Nato it is clearly essential that full account should be taken of Greek sensitivities towards Turkey though no more than of Turkey's own sensitivities. In the Community, it has to be recognized that under Mr Papandreu Greece has a markedly more pro-Arab position than any of the other members. Attempts must be made to accommodate it. But there will be occasions, like this week's discussion of Poland in Nato, when at the end of the day the others will have to go ahead without Greece rather than allow themselves to be hamstrung.

## THE DOUBLE ORDEAL OF RAPE

When a victim of a particularly brutal rape is so badly affected by her ordeal that she is unable to give evidence at the trial of her alleged attackers, and the case against them is therefore dropped, there is a conspicuous failure of justice. The decision of the Scottish prosecuting authorities to discontinue proceedings against three youths accused of rape (and attempted murder) appears to suggest that the more horrible the experience of a rape victim, the greater the chances of the rapists getting off. That is not, of course, what the prosecution are saying. They are the prisoners of the laws of evidence, just as their English counterparts would be in similar circumstances. Criticism can be made, however, of the decision to drop the prosecution altogether. The girl may not be in a fit mental state to give evidence now, but she might recover sufficiently to do so in future. The charges ought to have been

allowed to lie on the file, with the possibility of their being revived at a later date.

Some critics go further. Why, they ask, if the victim cannot or will not give evidence herself, is it not possible for her evidence to be presented to the court in written form? In that way, perpetrators of horrific crimes will still be brought to book, even though they have put their victim out of circulation. But to introduce such a reform would be to interfere fundamentally with the basic rights of persons accused of crime. It would, too, in practice reverse the presumption of innocence. There are two main defences to a charge of rape open to an accused: that he was not the rapist, or that the woman consented. In both cases, it is essential that the accused be given the opportunity, through his lawyer, to cross-examine the complainant.

The consequence, unhappily may be that rapists — not only the Scottish three (if they were indeed guilty) — are going unpunished because of the unwillingness of their victims to give evidence. Many more rapists are free because their victims have shrunk from reporting the rape at all, precisely because they fear the ordeal that the court case will put them through. The awful experience of the assault is bad enough without having to relive it many months later in a court of law at a time when, psychologically, it would be far better for it to be banished from memory. Yet if women do not come forward to report sexual attacks on them, they are leaving vicious criminals unpunished and free to prey on other women. It is an awful dilemma, and no woman should be blamed for declining to submit to the requirements of a trial. But stripping those accused of rape of their basic rights is not the answer.

## Reconsideration in rape case

From Mr Louis Bloy-Cooper, QC.  
Sir, Mr Jack Ashley (Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South) should desist from publicly badgering Judge Barrand Richards to reconsider his sentence in the recent rape case at Ipswich Crown Court, through the exercise of the power in section 11(2), Courts Act 1971.

That section provides that within 28 days a sentence "looked at alone, the words are capable of bearing the meaning that a sentence passed could be varied by the imposition of a more severe penalty. Mr Ashley, not being a lawyer, may be forgiven for not knowing, however, that the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) has definitively stated otherwise, in a case where a Recorder varied a sentence from a suspended sentence of two years' imprisonment to an immediate sentence of two years.

The Court said: "That section was included in order that slips made by the judge can be corrected, not that the judge should be allowed to change the substance of his sentence. It was necessary to have such a provision to enable that to be done. It was quite wrong, in our view, that it should be used as a device for a fundamental change of mind making a sentence which had been suspended into one which was not" (R. v. Grice [1978] 66 Cr. App. R. 167).

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BLOY-COOPER,  
Temple, EC4.

From Mr V. de Lanerolle  
Sir, Your Legal Correspondent (January 9) "doubts" whether there is a possible civil action in cases of rape. While the success or failure of an action must depend on its merits, the question is whether the facts of rape constitute a civil offence. The answer must emphatically be yes, and it is important that this becomes commonly known.

The action of trespass to the person has provided from ancient times a protection in law against direct physical interference. In rape there is nothing to prevent a victim of rape, subsequent to a successful criminal prosecution, from bringing a civil action in trespass or assault, and thereby recovering substantial damages.

Yours faithfully,  
V. DE LANEROLLE,  
(Senior lecturer in law, Polytechnic of North London),  
Ian Lodge,  
69 Stenard Road, N13,  
January 9.

## Social sciences

From Professor John Westergaard  
Sir, The trouble for the social sciences is not that they are unconcerned with practicalities. It is that their work often shows social practicalities to resist change except through measures and re-thinking more wholesale than squares with politicians' and managers' demands for ready results from piecemeal pragmatism.

So, whether or not social facts are "created" by the social sciences, the latter are liable to disturb vested interests. The hard line now being taken against the social sciences is in fact a soft option: it goes to discourage societal self-criticism.

Yours truly,  
JOHN WESTERGAARD,  
The University of Sheffield,  
Department of Sociological Studies,  
Sheffield,  
January 12.

## The suffering children

From Professor Philip J. Graham  
Sir, In your excellent editorial (December 19) you commented on the moving document *The State of the World's Children, 1981-1982*, recently published by Unicef. In it Unicef records progress in the developing countries in the sixties, in the reduction of infant mortality, and the deplorable lack of progress in more recent years.

It is perhaps appropriate to draw attention to the lesson we might learn from this document for the benefit of our own children. The validity of Unicef's argument depends on systematic monitoring of progress by the collection of relevant statistical data. Our present government has chosen this moment in time, when economic hardship may well worsen the plight of many of our children, to reduce the collection of useful data such as those obtained by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) in their General Household Survey. It has continued to ignore the report of the Committee on Child Health Services which recommended regular monitoring by Parliament of the welfare of children. It has abolished the Children's Committee, which alone was able to act as an independent voice for all children.

Our consciences are appropriately stirred when we read the Unicef document, and we should support that agency both personally and through our government. But surely we should also not allow a situation to develop in which there could be deterioration in the health and welfare of our own children, the most helpless and the most deserving amongst us, without our even being aware of the extent to which this is occurring.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP GRAHAM,  
Institute of Child Health,  
The Hospital for Sick Children,  
Great Ormond Street, WC1,  
January 5.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Crucial ambiguities in rail dispute

From Sir Richard Dobson

Sir, — the railway strike is on. Inasmuch as public sympathy may have some effect on its duration and on the form of its eventual solution, the public is entitled to certain information. There has been no lack of utterance by the protagonists, in your columns and other media. The following can be postulated from published information.

(a) The BR negotiators left the Acas meeting in August having agreed to pay the extra 3 per cent on the understanding (but not the express condition) that the unions committed themselves, in the time available, to finding ways and means of improving productivity. Although there was not a conditional relationship, BR must have said then, as they say now, that they could not find the money if they did not get the productivity.

(b) The other unions accepted the obligation on productivity but Aslef asserts, not only that the pay promise was unconditional, but that the parallel agreement committed the unions merely to resume negotiations on productivity through the normal channels.

If the BR version is right, at least a gentleman's agreement was breached and they are fully justified in striking to their guns. If the truth lies with Aslef it is understandable that its members, being persuaded that the employer has reneged on a promise, are in a strong position to demand a broken promise that so inflamed the civil servants.

Mr Rose (January 12) writes of "six commitments to productivity" (It is worth noting that the unions are in no position to "commit" their members without consulting them, but they can commit themselves to do their utmost to persuade.) These

### LT looks ahead

From the Chairman and Chief Executive of London Transport

Sir, Though I am, of course, always ready to listen to informed and constructive comments about London Transport and its performance, may I suggest that Lord Vaizey (January 6) should check his facts before he makes sweeping generalizations about London Transport, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Secretary of State for Transport.

His criticisms are, I know, coloured by a recent, unfortunate experience when he was seriously delayed on the District Line; his understandable annoyance compounded by a regrettable failure on our part to provide information about the cause. We got that wrong.

I agree with Lord Vaizey that most of the management side are highly desirable. In that connexion he suggests that the running of the Underground should be separated from the buses. It is. He suggests also that independent buses should be allowed to run in competition with the Underground. But there are few routes on which they can make both ends meet.

When, 18 months ago, unexpectedly and unsought, I agreed to take over the chairmanship of London Transport for a limited period in which to seek to resolve some specific difficulties, I set up separate management units under, inter alia, a Bus Board, a Rail Board and a Property Board, each with its own managing director responsible to a holding board. Further to delegate and to decentralize, there are, now, eight bus districts and four rail divisions, each with its own general manager. Management and operations are thus brought closer to those we serve — our passengers.

The results have shown advances in economy, in efficiency and in management techniques. These are becoming apparent and effective although, as in everything, much remains to be done, while much is still in hand.

As an example, during the past year, the average time between trains on the Underground system has been reduced to 30 minutes, which is within 30 seconds of the scheduled times. Normal unproductive or "waiting times" at maintenance bases,

### Following the plough

From Mr Roy Vickery

Sir, Anyone with an interest in traditional drama will be surprised by the "survival" of Skillington's letter published in today's *Times*, January 11. Either this letter has been on your files for many years, or its writer is unaware of much of the recent research which has been included in the publications of this society, and elsewhere.

After the publication of Fraser's *Golden Bough* it became fashionable to search for the origins of folk customs somewhere in remote antiquity. Indeed, the folk themselves often wanted to believe that the local festivals owed their origins to the Druids, Phoenicians, or some other ancient group. However, recent research does not support such ideas.

The Allendale Fire Festival, which was thought to be of Viking or Druid origin, seems to have started in the mid-nineteenth century. The May Day figure of Jack-in-the-Green, once considered to be "the annual victim in the vegetation drama", cannot be traced back beyond the last decade of the eighteenth century, and the Plough Monday play mentioned in your correspondent was not recorded until 1823.

Of course such customs may have been performed for many years before a passing antiquary first made note of them, but until we have greater evidence

commitments were presumably written down. Do they include "flexible rotation" specifically? Did BR make it clear that some degree of flexibility was essential to the better utilization of manpower? Did Aslef accept this or did they say at the time that the eight-hour day was sacrosanct and could not be touched as far as their members were concerned? After all, those present must have known this was an emotive issue, if not really a very substantive one; a great many people work varying hours of overtime, and I doubt if either Sir Peter Parker or Mr Bruckton confines his working hours to eight per day.

I hope that BR can elucidate these points. Otherwise, through constant reiteration, there may arise a creeping conviction in the public mind that Aslef have a genuine case.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD DOBSON,  
16 Marchmont Road,  
Richmond,  
Surrey,  
January 13.

From Mr Leonard A. Jackson  
Sir, Mr Ray Buckton's open letter to commuters (January 11) merits only one conclusion: he is a hair-splitting Luddite.

In appalling weather conditions, when we have been saddened by the deaths of brave helicopter crews and many other unsung heroes in alleviating distress, the members of Aslef have shown themselves to be stony-hearted. What shall it profit a man?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
L. A. JACKSON,  
Caritas,  
Heathside Lane,  
Hindhead,  
Surrey.

however much publicized, are down to percentages comparable with those at production centres generally; and will go substantially lower.

On bus services, in the existing conditions of increasing traffic congestion and of widespread illegal parking — thus constricting roads — I have had to come, regretfully, to the conclusion that the high standards of reliability and punctuality which we all seek cannot be attained without drastic new measures. The oft-quoted and frustrating "bunching" of buses is, primarily, a result of traffic blocks at a scheduled interval, catches up that in front. Then the two go forward together. If the second bus is deliberately held back, then its passengers are further delayed and doubly frustrated.

On current, reduced fares, London Transport is now back, in real terms, to the same fare levels as existed in 1969. But following the Law Lords' judgments, the fares will have to be doubled as soon as practical (March 21) to provide in 1982 an extra £160m of commercial revenue in place of subsidy. On expenditure, however, London Transport's costs, at less than 1.8p a place-mile operated, are low by any standards.

As Mr Alex Henney (January 8) rightly points out, productivity could be increased by a limited investment in such aids to efficiency as advanced means of fare collection, and other practical types of automation as exist in major cities overseas.

As in every business, we must always remain restlessly dissatisfied and wish it to do better. The most fundamental issue remains, however, policy decisions upon the level of public transport which London requires and is prepared to pay for, by whom and by how much? London Transport's fares are even now somewhat high by international standards, whereas the total income (fares plus revenue and capital grants) is proportionally among the lowest anywhere in the world.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER G. MASEFIELD,  
London Transport,  
55 Broadway, SW1,  
January 8.

for the continuation of a custom from earlier times, we should refrain from regarding even the most primitive-looking customs as being the "survivals" of ancient beliefs and practices, whose age can be "numbered not in hundreds but in thousands of years".

Yours faithfully,  
ROY VICKERY, Honorary Secretary,  
The Folklore Society,  
c/o University College London,  
Gower Street, WC1,  
January 11.

### Mozart in person

From Mr A. Hyatt King

Sir, Mr R. A. Howard (January 7) adduces a variety of evidence to deny Mr Burgess's claim (December 25) that Mozart's works as a whole are "symbols of social stability." While this is to some extent a subjective matter, Mr Howard falls into error in his statement that Mozart's "scatological talk affronted society." There is no evidence that Mozart ever used in conversation the language in which he wrote some of his private letters to his cousin, the "Bride."

Perhaps Mr Howard has been influenced by *Amadeus*, the play which the dramatic critic of the *Sunday Times* described as "appalling."

Yours faithfully,  
ALEX HYATT KING,  
29 Lauradale Road, NZ,  
January 7.

## Lord Carrington's record on Poland

From Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, MP for East Grinstead (Conservative)

Sir, Your criticism (leading article, January 13) of Lord Carrington's tone and manner when commenting upon the western response to the Polish situation on television recently is surely unjustified and inconsistent.

You spend nine tenths of your leading article endorsing the need for a "precise, well planned and above all coordinated" western response to events in Poland, but then take Lord Carrington to task for attempting to achieve precisely that.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,  
House of Commons,  
January 13.

### Yalta agreement

From Professor Stephen E. Ambrose

Sir, It is outrageous for the Russians to claim that Poland was assigned to them at Yalta. It is a disgrace that so many members of the Western press and political leadership have so readily accepted that re-writing of history.

Poland was not assigned to Russia at Yalta. Poland was one of the Western allies who was therefore not to be treated as an occupied country, but rather was due to have her sovereignty restored. At Yalta, in February of 1945, the Big Three agreed that post-war Poland would be free, democratic and independent. Stalin specifically pledged to include "democratic elements" in the Polish government (the so-called Lublin committee, a Soviet puppet), and he promised "free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot."

It is precisely those elections that Solidarity has been demanding, and Solidarity is insisting that Yalta finally be implemented, not overturned.

The language and intent of the Yalta Agreements could not have been clearer. Henry Truman demanded that the Russians "live up to their agreements." That they did not do so is well known; that Truman, like Reagan, could not force them to do so is also well known. Those facts, however, do not negate the fundamental historical truth that support for Solidarity is support for Yalta, not an attempt to reverse the wartime agreements.

The Soviets are the all-time champions at re-writing history (you can get a PhD in history in Russia without ever hearing the name Trotsky); the West has a duty, to Churchill and Roosevelt if not to the Polish people, to insist on the truth.

Yours etc,  
S. E. AMBROSE,  
Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History,  
Department of History,  
University College,  
Dublin,  
January 4.

### Penlee disaster fund

From Mr G. D. Redfearn

Sir, The *Times* often records without special comment six figure compensation payments to directors who lose their jobs.

Your leader (January 5) disapproving such payments to humble people for a greater sacrifice speaks volumes about your social attitude. The points on which you elaborate all occurred to people in Mousehole long ago.

Yours faithfully,  
G. D. REDFEARN,  
The Weekends,  
Penzance,  
January 11.

### A diary in question

From the Editorial Director of Penguin Books Limited

Sir, We have recently been made aware — not just from Count Tolstoy's letter to you published on January 9 — of the debate about the authenticity of Anne Hughes's *Diary of a Farmer's Wife, 1796-1797*. Farmer's Wife, 1796-1797, and are looking into the matter. Whatever the case may be there is no doubt that the book has given a great deal of pleasure as an evocation of eighteenth-century country life, and the foreword does not disguise the uncertainty about the origins of the material that forms the basis of the book.

Penguin Books certainly do not wish to be seen to make any false claims for books that we publish. Yours faithfully,  
PETER CARSON,  
Penguin Books Limited,  
536 King's Road, SW10,  
January 12.

From Mr John L. Tearle

Sir, Count Tolstoy's letter ("A diary in question", January 9) and, I would like to think, my own story of "another diary of another nobody" published elsewhere have already shamed Penguin Books into admitting that the *Diary of a Farmer's Wife 1796-1797* is not authentic. May we now expect the BBC to be equally forthcoming? Their film, prepared presumably in collaboration with Penguin, by the man who edited the book and shown again last October in the school's *Out of the Past* series — conveys a clear impression that Anne Hughes and her "books" really existed. When did they discover the truth?

Yours truly,  
JOHN L. TEARLE,  
Fulstide,  
Fritsheden Copse,  
Berkhamsd,  
Hertfordshire,  
January 11.







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# Business News

THE TIMES FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1982

Gentleman of quality, Page 13

## Daily Mail loses £3m as group profits fall

**By Our Financial Staff**

The Daily Mail, one of Britain's most popular daily newspapers, lost more than £3m last year, Fleet Street sources say. Associated Newspapers, the parent group, yesterday announced pre-tax profits down from £12.5m to £16.2m.

Since the closure of the Evening News, the mail has been bearing the cost of Fleet St printing complex alone. The launch of the Sunday Mail, in late spring, will spread these costs.

The profits were much less than the £18m to £21m forecast by City analysts. But they took the share prices down by only 2p to 173p. The dividend is unchanged, with a final of 5.9p, at 10.4p.

Among costs in 1981 that reduced profits were interest charges on sums for the Evening News redundancies. The turnaround is put in Fleet St at more than £1.5m, bringing interest charges to a debit of £700,000 against a sizable credit on interest last year.

Other adverse factors for the group last year included lower profits from the Argyle field where rig repairs and conservative treatment of the depreciation and depletion hit profits. The magazines were in loss by more than £1m because of its United States publishing interests, it is believed.

The groups regional newspapers showed slightly reduced profits down by about £1m at just below £13m.

The fall in the share price is less than it might have been because of possible plus factors in 1982. These include a full year with the Daily Mail at the present cover price of 15p, introduced last July, better profits from oil, and a possible upturn in advertising revenue if there is an end to recession.

Associated Newspaper executives were in board meetings yesterday, and not available for comment.

## Treasury plan aims at 7% inflation rate

**By David Blake, Economics Editor**

The Treasury is working on plans to update the Government's economic policy which are likely to involve accepting monetary growth of at least 8 per cent in the financial year which starts in April 1983.

This means a significant loosening of the figures contained in the medium term financial strategy drawn up in 1980. But it is argued that technical factors, not weakening of a resolve to fight inflation, lie behind the shift.

It is thought that the new money target which is emerging will fit in with hopes that next year inflation will be down to 7 per cent and growth in output up to 2 per cent.

A change in the speed at which money goes round in the economy is hoped for, which will make this 9 per cent step up in the total national income in cash consistent with the 8 per cent money target.

A little-mentioned footnote in the original medium-term strategy which set out the Government targets is turning out to have crucial importance. This said that the way in which money supply was defined for target purposes might need to be changed from time to time.

It is argued that changes in the banking system, especially the growth of bank lending for mortgages, mean that more things are now being counted in sterling M3 than were there when the original strategy was drawn up. This means that higher figures for monetary growth as measured by M3 will not have any extra inflationary impact.

The Government promised at the time of the 1980 Budget to reduce monetary growth to "about 6 per cent by 1983-4." This has been abandoned.

The action comes after the Government has been forced to concede that monetary growth in the 1982-3 year will be around 9 per cent.

This is the very top end of the 5 to 9 per cent range which the Government set itself in drawing up the initial plan. Most outside commentators interpreted it as meaning that the Government was aiming for growth of about 7 per cent, the middle of the range, this financial year.

Treasury officials will be completing their plans over the coming weeks as part of preparations for the Budget. It is intended to give the Cabinet a chance to have a full strategy discussion in the next three weeks so that they can make their views known by early February. The Treasury will have drawn up its economic forecasts by then, including its assessment of the likely level of public borrowing.

There will almost certainly be some indication of the Government's thinking on the exchange rate at Budget time in addition to announcements on monetary and tax policy.

Total bank lending to the private sector increased by £1,086m in the three weeks to mid-December, compared with the record rise of £2,558m during the previous banking month.

To the extent that at least some of this lending may represent borrowing to meet tax payments still owing to the Exchequer since last summer, the underlying trend in lending may be slowly coming more into line with what the authorities would like to see.

The effect of slower credit expansion has been to leave sterling M3 0.2 per cent higher on the month, as foreshadowed in the Bank of England's preliminary estimate last week. M1, the narrow money supply, grew by 0.1 per cent.

Financial Editor, page 13

## ACC takeover decided

**By Philip Robinson**

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, launched his takeover bid for Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation late last night amid reports that ACC had dismissed N. M. Rothschild, its merchant bank advisers, and the Takeover Panel had insisted on a redraft of part of the takeover document without a thorough examination of ACC. Advice is now being given by Standard Chartered Bank.

It is understood that the terms of the offer now satisfy the Takeover Panel and the bid was given to the Independent Broadcasting Authority on Wednesday night. The IBA would have to approve Mr Holmes a Court's proposals which appear to suggest a freezing of ACC control of Central Independent Television while details of how to reduce its holding from 51 per cent are worked out.

Central discussed the proposals at a board meeting yesterday but made no subsequent statement. However, it is now likely that the IBA will give its approval but will not make a statement until after detailed terms have been announced to shareholders.

It emerged late yesterday that ACC had dismissed Rothschild because the bank would not agree to sign the takeover document without a thorough examination of ACC. Advice is now being given by Standard Chartered Bank.

Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier, launched his takeover bid for Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation late last night amid reports that ACC had dismissed N. M. Rothschild, its merchant bank advisers, and the Takeover Panel had insisted on a redraft of part of the takeover document without a thorough examination of ACC. Advice is now being given by Standard Chartered Bank.

## Merchant bank advisers dismissed

**Takeover timetable**

December 1980: ACC told by IBA to sell off 49 per cent of ACC.

May 1981: Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Perth television station announces it holds 5 per cent stake in non-voting shares of ACC.

June: ACC announces first fall in profits for five years, down from £16.3m to £14.1m.

July: Mr Holmes a Court raises stake to 16.68 per cent.

August: ACC decides to take drastic action to tackle problems in loss-making film production and records and tapes divisions.

September: Mr Jack Gill, Lord Grade's right-hand man for 25 years resigns as managing director of ACC. Lord Grade reduces his voting stake in ACC to 23 per cent. Mr Holmes a Court announces he now has 28 per cent of the non-voting shares, and travels to London to meet Lord Grade for the first time.

November: Mr Holmes a Court announces he has lifted his stake in ACC's non-voting shares to 50.1 per cent and is appointed to the board.

December: Lord Matthews increases personal stake in ACC to about 8 per cent of the voting shares. ACC announces that it has lost £8.13m half way through the financial year. The dispute over Mr Jack Gill's £750,000 golden handshake begins. A stockbroker and Conservative MP, Birmingham Selby Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dart suggests that golden handshakes should be limited to £75,000 by law.

January 1982: National Association of Pension Funds backed by eight other institutions takes legal action against ACC over Mr Matthews' resignation. Speculation that Lord Grade is under pressure to step down in favour of Mr Holmes a Court mounts.

Mr Gill says he may sue ACC for damages. IBA says it has been notified by ACC that takeover offer has been made.

## North Sea output rises by 10pc

**By Rupert Morris**

North Sea oil production in 1981 was about 90 million tonnes, an increase of 10 per cent on the 1980 figure, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

Taken in conjunction with the increase in exploration wells from 35 in 1980 to 54 in 1981, and estimates of recoverable reserves being revised upwards by BP and Texaco, it makes an encouraging picture for the industry in 1982.

But oil industry sources pointed out that exploration was not the same as development, which could be severely curtailed by a continuation of what is seen as an unduly restrictive tax regime.

Texaco has announced two new investments: underwater well units costing up to £150m in the Tartan field, which has proved difficult to exploit for geological reasons; and production equipment worth £250m in Block 14/20.

Of these Tartan is by far the bigger long-term project, with 200 million barrels of recoverable reserves, but daily production estimates for 1982 have been halved because of the geological problems.

BP, meanwhile, has revised its estimates for recoverable reserves from the northernmost Magnus field from 450 million barrels to 565 million barrels.

The rapid increase in exploration is regarded by most oil industry experts as being related primarily to the seventh round of licences awarded last year. A boom akin to the mid-70s is not envisaged.

Department of Energy figures reveal, however, that worries about taxes have not stopped a steady increase. Production between January and November 1981 was 81,430,000 tonnes, compared with 80,467,000 tonnes for the whole of 1980.

The final 1981 figures now look likely to be well towards the top end of Government estimates of 80-95 million tonnes.

Production of between 85 and 110 million tonnes is forecast for 1982.

## Chairman resigns at UBM

**By Margaret Pagano**

Mr Michael Phillips, chairman and managing director of UBM, Britain's second largest builders' merchants, resigned yesterday. He was immediately replaced by Mr Gerald Wightman, chairman of Sketcheys, who will be non-executive chairman.

Mr Phillips, who was paid £60,000 a year by the group, claimed last night that his sudden resignation yesterday morning was because UBM, which is losing money, wanted a scapegoat for recession.

Mr Phillips said that he had disagreed with the board over his view that radical changes should be made to the merchandising division of UBM.

"I wanted the group to find a balance between retail and merchandising business to avoid the violent effects of the recession," he said.

However, at the board's headquarters in Bristol last night Mr Bill Odey, finance director, refuted this argument. He said: "The disagreement, briefly, was over the structure of responsibilities within the group and nothing to do with either policy or strategy."

"The board felt the roles of chairman and chief executive should be split. We offered Mr Phillips the role of non-executive chairman," he said.

In the six months to August last year UBM lost for the first time £831,000 compared with profits of £2.3m last time.

## \$1m sales a month for Immos

**By Bill Johnstone**

Immos, the microchip manufacturer whose majority shareholder is the British Technology Group, now has a turnover of \$1m (£538,000) a month.

More than 600 people are employed at the company's base in Colorado Springs in the United States and the figure is expected to remain stable while the British plant at Newport, Gwent, starts production in July.

The company has just introduced its latest microchip, called a dynamic RAM. The chip has 64,000 memory cells and is used in computer systems. The other Immos product is a static RAM, with 16,000 memory cells, again for use in computer systems.

About 80 per cent of the company's production is sold in the United States, the rest being split evenly between Japan and America. Those ratios are expected to change when the Welsh plant becomes operative.

Plans for the factory — which is expected to create 1,000 jobs by next year — are said to be on schedule. Equipment will be moved onto the site within weeks.

The Immos board meets today to discuss its plans for the next year. The plans are expected to include scope for substantial growth.

Immos appears not to have felt any ill effects from the recession. Everything produced is sold and the company is planning to design and manufacture microcomputer chips next year. A substantial amount of the work on this has been done at Bristol by British staff.

By the end of this year, the original three-year programme to establish an international semi-conductor company with bases in the United States and Europe will have been completed.

The company's products, which are sold principally to the computer, telecommunications and military equipment supply industries, are believed to have a sales potential of \$1,000m a year.



## Angry shareholders try to oust bank director

Shareholders tried to throw Mr Peter Balfour off the Royal Bank of Scotland board at a turbulent annual meeting in Edinburgh yesterday on the eve of the Government's decision on the Bank's fate.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet is understood to have heard the decision by Mr John Biffen, Secretary for Trade, to accept the Monopolies Commission recommendation to block the two £500m takeover bids for the bank.

Shareholders voted 83 to 77 against Mr Balfour's reappointment, but after an adjournment he was reappointed on a card poll by 51m votes to 1.2m while the help of proxies held by Sir Michael Herries, the chairman.

Mr Balfour, who is chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and one of Scotland's most prominent businessmen, said after the vote: "Some shareholders don't approve of what the bank is doing, which they are entitled to do, and they expressed this by voting against the first non-executive director to come up for re-election, which happened to be me."

The board's stormy reception reflected strong feeling in parts of Scotland against the takeover.

The Government will announce today its decision on the two bids from Standard Chartered and Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The Cabinet is not thought to have debated Mr Biffen's decision.

At the annual general meeting, Sir Michael met hostile questioning from shareholders on the board's wish to merge with Standard Chartered. Mr Peter de Vink, an Edinburgh financier, said: "The best thing for you to do, and the people who have not so heavily been promoting a merger, is to offer their resignations."

Sir Michael said the board did not know what the Government would decide but he said that if the bank stays independent, the directors had worked out a strategy for its development.

## CBI tough line on lame ducks

**By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor**

State aid for lame-duck industries should be subject to tough criteria, while industry must take the initiative to promote "sunrise industries", Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

In a keynote speech on industrial policy — the Stockton lecture, at the London Business School — Sir Terence said: "The restructuring of British industry will be carried out on a much sounder basis if it is done at company level than if we wait for some grand government plan."

But there were areas where the Government could aid casualties, such as core industries, to give them breathing space for reequipping and reorganisation. There should be a time-limit for aid, he said. "We really will have to let one or two go in the future."

Selective action by Government to promote "sunrise industries" had raised strong reactions because of industrialists' fears of waste, involvement of civil servants and market distortions. But the Government should not be entirely unselective in areas such as educational policy or the dispensing of research and development assistance to private industry, Sir Terence said.

Governments had a primary role in defining the overall economic framework within which industry operated, but they also developed policies across the board for many issues — from energy and taxation to regional development and exchange rate levels. The only way to see if such policies were pulling in the same direction was to establish industrial priorities and needs of priority areas.

A welcome element in the Government's initiative on information technology was the setting up of an advisory panel of businessmen within the Cabinet Office to advise the minister, Sir Terence said.

Industry was not looking for a middle way between the policies of the Conservative and Labour parties or indulging in nostalgia for 1960s Butskillism. "Some of us are convinced that a number of our present troubles began in that period," Sir Terence said.

The CBI faced problems with any British Government. A long-term policy was needed for the nationalised industries, with government emphasis on limited management intervention, Sir Terence said.

## Best foot forward

Start-rite, Britain's oldest shoemaker which has been manufacturing at Norwich since 1972, is creating 60 new jobs, increasing its work force by 7 per cent to nearly 900. The company, mainly a producer of children's shoes, expects to recruit further as sales, already up 25 per cent on last year, continue to grow. Forward orders for the spring are already up 18 per cent.

## Recovery for French cars

The French motor industry is expecting a sharp recovery in passenger car registrations this year after two years of successive declines. The French motor manufacturers association is expecting a 6 per cent increase to 1.94 million as a result of the socialist Government's reflationary policies.

## Mines and rail gloom hit pound

**By Frances Williams**

The prospect of a miners' strike, coupled with the troubles on the railways, has cast a long shadow over sterling on the world's financial markets this week.

Yesterday, it fell for the sixth consecutive day against a buoyant dollar, losing 50 points to close in London at \$1.8630 after dipping to a low of \$1.8550 at one stage. This brings its losses this week alone to more than 5 1/2 cents.

The pound's weakness against the dollar has been compounded by the American currency's strength, founded on expectations that United States interest rates are rising. In spite of continuing signs of recession many analysts fear that the Federal Reserve Board may act to tighten credit policy because of rapid money supply growth and buoyant private credit demand.

However, the pound has also lost ground against Continental currencies such as the Deutsche mark.

**Stock Markets**

FT Index 527.2 down 0.1  
FT Gilt 62.24 down 0.06  
FT All Share 306.67 down 0.72  
Bargains 13,927

**Sterling**

\$1.8630 down 50 pts  
Index 50.1 down 0.2

**Dollar**

Index 109.3 up 0.9  
DM 2.3080 up 215 pts

**Gold**

\$376.00 down \$4.50 cents  
New York: \$412.70

**Money**

3 mth sterling 15 1/4-15 1/2  
3 mth Euro \$14 1/4-14 1/2  
6 mth Euro \$15 1/4-14 1/2

### PRICE CHANGES

**Rises**

AGB Research	14p to 27 1/2p
Bent Bros	6p to 9 1/2p
Devenish	10p to 30 1/2p
French T	10p to 11 1/2p
Gas & Oil Acre	5p to 40 1/2p
James Stroud	8p to 8 1/2p
McCormac	5p to 13 1/2p
Muirhead	7p to 11 1/2p
Phillips Lamps	5p to 45 1/2p
Rosenbush	5p to 25 1/2p
Sangers	6p to 41 1/2p
Thorn EMI	7 1/2p to 43 1/2p
Willis Faber	5p to 37 1/2p

**Falls**

Blivoors	23p to 45 1/2p
Broken Hill	20p to 57 1/2p
Croftville	11p to 39 1/2p
Husky Oil	30p to 40 1/2p
Kiorosa	22p to 49 1/2p
Lion Ship	13p to 11 1/2p
Plessey	11p to 34 1/2p
Racal Elect	33p to 39 1/2p
Rand Mine Prop	15p to 31 1/2p
Ranger Oil	15p to 36 1/2p
Sentrust	51p to 36 1/2p
Sothely	13p to 35 1/2p
Ventureport	37p to 36 1/2p

## BUSINESS BRIEFING

### BL to produce four new models in Metro range

BL is to produce four more versions of the Metro this year, the United Kingdom's best selling British-built car. They include a high performance model to be launched in the spring and the Metro Commercial for export to France.

The Commercial breaks entirely new ground for BL. It has been designed specifically to exploit loopholes in French tax laws.

Similar moves to extend model ranges have caused serious production problems for BL, but yesterday Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of the company's light medium car operations, said: "That is all in the past. For the first time in our history we now have a combination of individual expertise and computer-based production which has halved the production force in the past 18 months. The management called yesterday for volunteers for redundancy."

Meanwhile, Dr John Watkins, director of the Assay machine plant near Coventry, where 500 of 2,800 jobs were shed last year, has warned of tough times ahead.

### Yen for robots

Kawasaki heavy industries is to invest 17,000 yen (£4,000m) to build what it claims will be the world's biggest robot factory. The factory will be completed by early 1984 and will use robots for tasks such as spot welding. The company expects to produce 2,000 robots a year at the factory.

### Home insurance costs rising

Home owners will find insurance costs rising once again after the announcement from the British Insurance Association that house rebuilding costs rose by 1.1 per cent during the fourth quarter of 1981.

Over the 12 months to the end of December 1981 rebuilding costs rose by 4.5 per cent. If the rebuilding cost of a house was £40,000 in December 1980, it would have increased by £1,800 by December 1981.

### Japan closures

Last year 17,610 Japanese companies went bankrupt the third worst figure on record. The total amount of debts left by the companies was 2,691,000 yen.

The number of company failures, however, was down 1.6 per cent on 1980 and the amount of debts edged down 0.6 per cent.

### More Rolls jobs to go

Rolls-Royce is to cut 500 more jobs at its Coventry aero engine factory, nearly a quarter of those remaining after a de-manning operation which has halved the production force in the past 18 months. The management called yesterday for volunteers for redundancy.

### OECD prices slow up

Consumer prices in member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development rose 0.5 per cent in November compared with 0.6 per cent in October. Over the 12 months to the end of November prices rose 10.1 per cent compared with 12.9 per cent for all of 1980.

### Thorn job cuts

About 4,000 employees at Thorn EMI were made redundant in the six months to September. The British workforce is now 79,000 compared to 101,000 at the time of the merger of Thorn and EMI two years ago. More than 16,000 jobs have been lost because of the recession.

Financial Editor, page 13

### Anglo-Polish trade warning

British liner shipping has been forced out of the trade with Poland because of the economic crisis there. And the same thing could happen in the Russian trade if the West goes ahead with threatened sanctions in the next few days.

## The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited was held on 14 January 1982 at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh. Sir Michael Herries presided.

A resolution declaring a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 3.0p per share was passed.

Resolutions were passed re-appointing Mr C M Winter, Mr L M Harper Gow and Sir Austin Pearce as Directors.

Resolutions re-appointing Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. as Auditors and authorising the Directors to fix their remuneration as Auditors were also passed.

A resolution was also passed on the following on a poll:

	Votes for	Votes against
Re-appointment of Mr P E G Balfour as a Director	59,142,399	1,172,664
M R McLean, Assistant Secretary, 36 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh.		

14 January 1982



# BSC boost for S & W Berisford

by Michael Prest

S & W Berisford, the commodity trading and processing group which last year acquired almost 40 per cent of British Sugar Corporation in a bitterly fought battle, increased pretax profits for 1981 by 12.7 per cent to £40.7m.

But without its equity share of British Sugar's profits, Berisford would have seen its own profits grow by just 2.7 per cent to £37m. Mr Gordon Percival, a Berisford director, described 1981 as "a year of very demanding conditions."

The violent fluctuations in the cocoa market had been

particularly testing, Mr Percival said. Cocoa, normally the most profitable commodity for Berisford, was supplanted by sugar, and more or less to match those from cocoa.

Nevertheless, the final dividend of 7.1 pence means that after allowing for last year's capitalization issue, the dividend has been increased by 15.4 per cent to 10.7p gross. Mr Percival pointed out, however, that the dividend cover is unchanged, earnings per share covering the dividend 2.4 times.

Berisford is also contemplating further expansion, prohibited as the company is from adding to its British Sugar holding until after the end of June. Mr Percival said that Berisford was close to reaching agreement on buying for up to £15m a commodity trading company based in Switzerland.

One of Berisford's other companies to suffer in the adverse trading conditions of last year was Tom Martin Metals, Tame Valley Alloys, an aluminium processor, also suffered a sharp fall in profits.

Looking further ahead, however, Mr Percival was optimistic about the prospects for the group's metal trading operations.

He said: "We have been looking for an opportunity of making our mark in metal trading for some time."

This year could see an improvement in the profitability of Berisford's main-stream operations. Trading profit in 1981 was £47m, a fall of £800,000, but the share 18 profits from associated companies rose from virtually nothing to £6.2m. Of that sum, £3.7m came from British Sugar.

## Mothercare merger goes ahead

By our Financial Staff

Habitat and Mothercare, joined together yesterday by shareholders' approval of Habitat's £117m reverse takeover, will continue to trade separately, though there may be separate Habitat and Mothercare shops under one roof in certain properties, Mr Terence Conran, the chairman, said.

The new company will be known as Habitat Mothercare and has been admitted to the Stock Exchange official list. Dealings in the new company begin today. According to Mr Conran, the inelegance of the group's new name may be changed in future. A possible title for the holding company is the Parent Company, he said. No objections were raised and no questions were asked by the dozen shareholders at the two separate meetings. Formal approval was given by 30.5m votes to 2m. The combined group will collaborate on estates, catalogues and product negotiations. Habitat will contribute its expertise in design and styling of maternity and children's products and store layout.

## £3m turnround at Muirhead

By Drew Johnston

A £3m profits turnround at Kent-based Muirhead, the electronics and communications group, pushed its shares up 10p to 122p yesterday. Profits for the year to September were £882,000 against a loss last year of £2.7m. Sales went up from £25.1m to £28.5m, and a loss per share at 25.2p was turned into earnings of 7.3p. The dividend for the year totals 4.28p gross. No dividend was paid last year.

An extraordinary loss of £93,000 arose from the sale of assets in Muirhead Radio

Communications, and the end of this business. The total loss on the subsidiary was offset by a profit on the sale of a Canadian freehold property, Donald Buchanan, company secretary, said yesterday that the turnround had been achieved through a careful review of the company's operations.

Closure of an uneconomic factory at Morden in Surrey, increased productivity, and reduction in overheads all played a part in the recovery. "The recovery did not come

through new products with high profit margins", he said.

At the half year, the company showed the first sign that these actions would be effective when it reduced its losses to only £95,000. Work for United Kingdom and overseas defence industries has kept the company's order book steady. About 22 per cent of production last year was direct exports, though its overseas companies raised the overall level of foreign sales to half the total.

## Jones, Stroud profit nearly doubled

Jones, Stroud (Holdings) nearly doubled its profits in the first half. The Nottingham-based supplier of fabrics and electrical accessories to industry, which also owns the Cash's name tape business, pushed its pretax profits up from £685,000 to £1.2m. Sales were slightly down at £14m, against £14.19m last year, though earnings per share rose from 3.65p to 7.32p.

The company has also managed to slash its interest bill from £421,000 to £240,000, but earnings of

associated companies fell from £231,000 to £269,000.

The interim dividend was held at 2.55p gross. Mr Jones, chairman, said in his statement that the marked recovery in profits in due largely to the restructuring of the group, which the company's management has undertaken since the start of the recession. "Trading was still difficult the new rise of interest rates had added to the problems, but the company was expecting profits in the second half of the year to be similar to those of the first.

Part of the recovery is understood to be the result of the cost-cutting exercise carried out over the past 18 months. In the accounts for the year to July, redundancy costs of £105,000 were recorded.

The market's interpretation of the company's improvement led to an increase in the share price of 8p to 83p. This gives it a market capitalisation of around £7.6m, slightly up on last year's total valuation.

## NOTICE OF REDEMPTION to the holders of

# SUNDSTRAND FINANCE INTERNATIONAL N.V.

93% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Notes Due 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of February 15, 1976, there has been selected for redemption on February 15, 1982 (payable on or after February 16, 1982), through operation of the Sinking Fund, \$1,999,000 principal amount of SUNDSTRAND FINANCE INTERNATIONAL N.V. 93% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Notes Due 1983. The following are the serial numbers of the Sinking Fund Notes which will be redeemed:

Definitive Sinking Fund Notes in the principal amount of \$1,000 bearing the prefix DM to be redeemed in whole.

11	573	984	1456	1867	2701	3167	3239	3507	3743	3882	4189	4347	4606	4919	5222	5223	5224	5225	5226	5227	5228	5229	5230	5231	5232	5233	5234	5235	5236	5237	5238	5239	5240	5241	5242	5243	5244	5245	5246	5247	5248	5249	5250	5251	5252	5253	5254	5255	5256	5257	5258	5259	5260	5261	5262	5263	5264	5265	5266	5267	5268	5269	5270	5271	5272	5273	5274	5275	5276	5277	5278	5279	5280	5281	5282	5283	5284	5285	5286	5287	5288	5289	5290	5291	5292	5293	5294	5295	5296	5297	5298	5299	5300	5301	5302	5303	5304	5305	5306	5307	5308	5309	5310	5311	5312	5313	5314	5315	5316	5317	5318	5319	5320	5321	5322	5323	5324	5325	5326	5327	5328	5329	5330	5331	5332	5333	5334	5335	5336	5337	5338	5339	5340	5341	5342	5343	5344	5345	5346	5347	5348	5349	5350	5351	5352	5353	5354	5355	5356	5357	5358	5359	5360	5361	5362	5363	5364	5365	5366	5367	5368	5369	5370	5371	5372	5373	5374	5375	5376	5377	5378	5379	5380	5381	5382	5383	5384	5385	5386	5387	5388	5389	5390	5391	5392	5393	5394	5395	5396	5397	5398	5399	5400	5401	5402	5403	5404	5405	5406	5407	5408	5409	5410	5411	5412	5413	5414	5415	5416	5417	5418	5419	5420	5421	5422	5423	5424	5425	5426	5427	5428	5429	5430	5431	5432	5433	5434	5435	5436	5437	5438	5439	5440	5441	5442	5443	5444	5445	5446	5447	5448	5449	5450	5451	5452	5453	5454	5455	5456	5457	5458	5459	5460	5461	5462	5463	5464	5465	5466	5467	5468	5469	5470	5471	5472	5473	5474	5475	5476	5477	5478	5479	5480	5481	5482	5483	5484	5485	5486	5487	5488	5489	5490	5491	5492	5493	5494	5495	5496	5497	5498	5499	5500	5501	5502	5503	5504	5505	5506	5507	5508	5509	5510	5511	5512	5513	5514	5515	5516	5517	5518	5519	5520	5521	5522	5523	5524	5525	5526	5527	5528	5529	5530	5531	5532	5533	5534	5535	5536	5537	5538	5539	5540	5541	5542	5543	5544	5545	5546	5547	5548	5549	5550	5551	5552	5553	5554	5555	5556	5557	5558	5559	5560	5561	5562	5563	5564	5565	5566	5567	5568	5569	5570	5571	5572	5573	5574	5575	5576	5577	5578	5579	5580	5581	5582	5583	5584	5585	5586	5587	5588	5589	5590	5591	5592	5593	5594	5595	5596	5597	5598	5599	5600	5601	5602	5603	5604	5605	5606	5607	5608	5609	5610	5611	5612	5613	5614	5615	5616	5617	5618	5619	5620	5621	5622	5623	5624	5625	5626	5627	5628	5629	5630	5631	5632	5633	5634	5635	5636	5637	5638	5639	5640	5641	5642	5643	5644	5645	5646	5647	5648	5649	5650	5651	5652	5653	5654	5655	5656	5657	5658	5659	5660	5661	5662	5663	5664	5665	5666	5667	5668	5669	5670	5671	5672	5673	5674	5675	5676	5677	5678	5679	5680	5681	5682	5683	5684	5685	5686	5687	5688	5689	5690	5691	5692	5693	5694	5695	5696	5697	5698	5699	5700	5701	5702	5703	5704	5705	5706	5707	5708	5709	5710	5711	5712	5713	5714	5715	5716	5717	5718	5719	5720	5721	5722	5723	5724	5725	5726	5727	5728	5729	5730	5731	5732	5733	5734	5735	5736	5737	5738	5739	5740	5741	5742	5743	5744	5745	5746	5747	5748	5749	5750	5751	5752	5753	5754	5755	5756	5757	5758	5759	5760	5761	5762	5763	5764	5765	5766	5767	5768	5769	5770	5771	5772	5773	5774	5775	5776	5777	5778	5779	5780	5781	5782	5783	5784	5785	5786	5787	5788	5789	5790	5791	5792	5793	5794	5795	5796	5797	5798	5799	5800	5801	5802	5803	5804	5805	5806	5807	5808	5809	5810	5811	5812	5813	5814	5815	5816	5817	5818	5819	5820	5821	5822	5823	5824	5825	5826	5827	5828	5829	5830	5831	5832	5833	5834	5835	5836	5837	5838	5839	5840	5841	5842	5843	5844	5845	5846	5847	5848	5849	5850	5851	5852	5853	5854	5855	5856	5857	5858	5859	5860	5861	5862	5863	5864	5865	5866	5867	5868	5869	5870	5871	5872	5873	5874	5875	5876	5877	5878	5879	5880	5881	5882	5883	5884	5885	5886	5887	5888	5889	5890	5891	5892	5893	5894	5895	5896	5897	5898	5899	5900	5901	5902	5903	5904	5905	5906	5907	5908	5909	5910	5911	5912	5913	5914	5915	5916	5917	5918	5919	5920	5921	5922	5923	5924	5925	5926	5927	5928	5929	5930	5931	5932	5933	5934	5935	5936	5937	5938	5939	5940	5941	5942	5943	5944	5945	5946	5947	5948	5949	5950	5951	5952	5953	5954	5955	5956	5957	5958	5959	5960	5961	5962	5963	5964	5965	5966	5967	5968	5969	5970	5971	5972	5973	5974	5975	5976	5977	5978	5979	5980	5981	5982	5983	5984	5985	5986	5987	5988	5989	5990	5991	5992	5993	5994	5995	5996	5997	5998	5999	6000
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Accordingly, on February 15, 1982 the Sinking Fund Notes so designated for redemption will become due and payable on or after February 16, 1982, subject to the deposit of funds with the Paying Agent, at one-hundred percent (100%) of the principal amount thereof in United States dollars, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the corporate trust office of Bankers Trust Company, One Bankers Trust Plaza, New York, New York 10006 or (b) subject to any applicable laws or regulations in the country where each of the following offices is located, at the main offices of Bankers Trust Company in London and Paris, or at the main offices of Banque Internationale a Luxembourg S.A., in Luxembourg-Ville.

Certain Temporary Notes which were called for redemption on February 15, 1977 have not been presented for payment. Temporary Note numbers TM 1661 and TM 1692 were called in whole.

In accordance with Section 3(B) of the Fiscal Agency Agreement, payment of interest due on the above Temporary Notes which were selected for redemption, on February 15, 1977, will not be made unless the ownership declaration as set forth on such Note has been executed.

BANKERS TRUST COMPANY, Fiscal Agent

Dated: January 15, 1982

## Broker and Elliott Group end dispute

A dispute over whether stockbroker firm Bone Fitzgerald had given investment advice to a director of the Elliott Group of Peterborough while at the same time acting as advisers to Jenks & Cantell, which was making a contested takeover bid for Elliott, has been resolved.

In a statement before Christmas, the Elliott board said that Mr Carl Chow, an Elliott director, had decided to accept an offer which was being resisted by the rest of the board, after discussion with Bone Fitzgerald, his personal investment advisers.

In an agreed statement published by all parties yesterday, Elliott says it has recognized that the release and newspaper articles based upon it are capable of being understood to constitute allegations of serious professional misconduct by Bone Fitzgerald, Elliott and their advisers, Greyhound Guaranty, said they are happy to confirm that no such allegations were intended, and that the press release was not in any way intended to cast doubt on the professional integrity and reputation of Bone Fitzgerald. Any such suggestion, they say, is regretted and entirely repudiated.

## Greene, King ahead

Pretax profits of Suffolk-based Greene, King & Co. rose 10.5 per cent to £2.9m in the 26 weeks to October 24. Turnover expanded from £27m to £30.7m. The interim payment, gross, is being raised from 3p to 3.42p a share. Greene's board expects that the group's market share continues to grow.

## Cantors cuts loss

In the half-year to October 31, Sheffield-based Cantors managed to cut its pretax loss from £385,000 to £147,000 on turnover up from £7.5m to £10m. The board hopes that the second-half's results will compare with those of the second half last year and will not be affected by industrial unrest or the weather. Cantors is a retailer of general house furnishings, carpets and beddings.

## Thomas French

A second-half upswing has enabled Thomas French and Sons to return record results for the year to October 31, in spite of the dip in profits in the initial six months. With turnover up from £16.9m to £19.3m, pretax profits rose from £1.34m to £1.65m. The total dividend is going up from 7.14p gross to 8.57p gross a share.

## Eurosyndicat

The Eurosyndicat Index on European 130 stock, was up 1.2 points to 130.55 at the close.

## Technology by Pearce Wright

# Marconi keeps pilots' heads up

The American magazine *Aviation Week and Space Technology's* first issue of 1982 contains nominations for special achievements in aerospace in the previous 12 months. Understandably the astronauts who piloted the first two flights of the reusable space shuttle take pride of place.

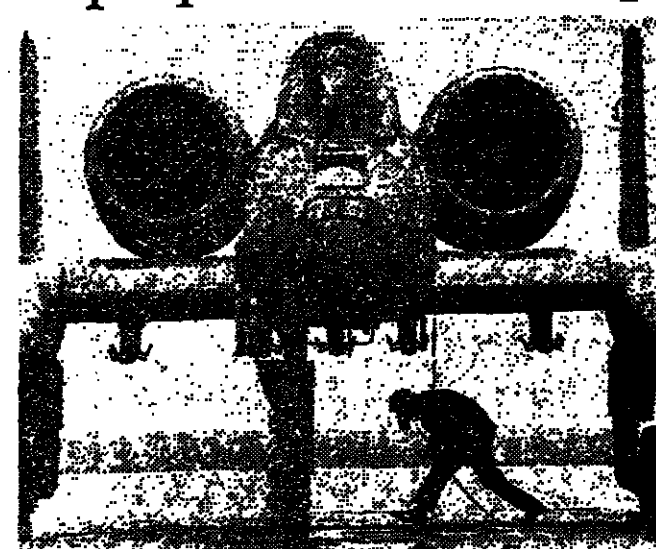
But laurels are also awarded to a British team of engineers. The commendation says simply: "Ian Whitehouse and his Marconi Avionics team for development of the holographic headup display system for the General Dynamics F-16 and the Fairchild A-10."

Behind that bald statement lies one of the most brilliant innovations in advanced technology to emerge from the electronics industry. For it is one of the few instances in which the principles of holography have been exploited for a major commercial invention.

The amount of available information on the equipment is restricted because this first application is for military aircraft. If past experience is a good guide, the modification of the process to the civil field is only a matter of time. More exciting developments in the future, however, lie in the possibilities of three-dimensional television.

The two aircraft, the F-16 multirole fighter and the A-10 close-up support aircraft, are the most recent machines to enter service with the United States Air Force, and hence are equipped with the latest electronic aids. This includes an improved version of the device referred to as a headup display (HUD), with which modern low-flying military aircraft operate. This method was pioneered some time ago by GEC-Marconi Electronics, whereby pilots have flight information projected optically into their field of vision; thus eliminating the need to look down at the instrument panel.

The alphanumeric characters and symbols which appear before the pilot are generated by a computer. Now a new generation of headup display incorporating



A-10s like this are fitted with a holographic headup display system.

holography has been devised under a \$100m contract to supply the USAF with a system code named Lantirn Hud. It is a scheme by which pilots will see the night scene ahead of the terrain over which they are flying at low level as part of their headup display.

A hologram is the equivalent of a photographic negative in that it contains an image of an object that can be reproduced. But a hologram plate looks like an undecipherable pattern of stripes and whorls. Yet those unrecognizable blurs have some remarkable properties. For example, a three-dimensional image of an object can be projected from the hologram, and that image can be photographed by conventional means to give a picture as clear as the solid original object.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Thorn EMI rides the video boom

More than most major companies, Thorn EMI has cause to bless last July's Royal Wedding. The nuptials led to an upsurge in demand for television sets and video recorders which continued throughout the rest of the year.

With both manufacturing and rental outlets working at full capacity and the Ferguson TX range gaining ground, the group managed to beat stock market expectations for the six months to September 30, producing pretax profits up from £38.6m to £45.5m. But apart from television and video rental, the figures reflect better results from overseas and the absence of rationalization costs, particularly in the record division.

Record demand continued its slow improvement from the horrors of 1979 when sales plummeted by more than 50 per cent. But though the recession is still hitting demand, Thorn EMI is benefiting from closures in Europe and the emergence of new singing stars.

That is the good news. EMI films are still losing money, albeit not on a titanic scale. And the high front-end cost of depreciating video equipment appears to have wiped out cash flow on the software side. Profits from domestic appliances made a reasonable contribution against nothing in the comparable period last year. But engineering and lighting remain problem areas.

The board indeed refer to possible disposals for businesses which do not fit into the corporate plan. And there is speculation that the lighting division, the very base of Thorn, will be hived off, maybe to GEC.

Thorn EMI is weathering the recession due to rationalization measures, the improved television and video rental markets, and relatively strong performance overseas. So in the year to March, profits could touch £110m pretax against £94m previously. Beyond that much depends upon the partnership with JVC, AEG-Telefunken and Thomson-Brandt for the manufacture of video disc players in the EEC, further disposals and an upturn in general demand. The shares at 442p reflect hopes that the large investment in video will bear fruit in the middle of the decade.

### Money markets

#### Difficult days for the Bank

Yesterday's full money supply figures for the short December banking month showed nothing seriously untoward unless, of course one holds the view that the money supply should be contracting as the effects of the civil servants' dispute are unwound.

As it is, the figures once again confirm that sterling M3 is not the best indicator to be watching for the moment. Against sterling M3 growth at an annualized growth rate of 15% per cent since last February, PS12, the broad measure of private liquidity has seen its annualized growth rate drop back to 12 per cent, while that for M1, the narrow version of banking money, stands at just 8% per cent.

Of more immediate concern is the present and prospective liquidity shortage in the banking sector. In banking December the Issue Department took aboard a further £550m. of commercial bills. That total will have grown since mid-December, and next week the discount houses expect the total liquidity shortage to run anywhere between £1,500m. and £2,000m.

Interestingly the banks were buying on bills from outside the banking system during December to give themselves a greater cushion of primary liquidity. But it has been clear this week that, even though the banks may be running down their liquidity ratios (in line with the Bank of England's policy of flexible liquidity norms), liquidity flowing from the authorities through the discount houses has not always been working through to the banks themselves all that fast.

A serious complication now could be any weakness in sterling. The authorities may believe that they should try

to prevent any rise in domestic interest rates, but their scope to use intervention as a support for sterling would only serve to aggravate still further liquidity shortage in the banking system.

### United Newspapers Trusting to expansion

While Fleet Street throbs with fresh speculation on the future structure of the national newspapers — and Associated's disappointing results yesterday did nothing to diminish rumours that it may well feature in any restructuring — United Newspapers quietly gave notice that it is proposing to move up a step in the publishing league.

Not that United is likely to have any aspirations about gaining a foothold in Fleet Street particularly after the death of former chairman Lord Barnetson. But by effectively sewing up the purchase of Colonial Securities Trust with an underwritten share offer, United will get its hands on a portfolio that should realise about £10m. — or considerably more than it would have been able to raise by a conventional rights issue on the equivalent one-for-two basis.

Given that United is already totally ungeared, albeit that last year's net cash position of almost £6m has been partly run down, there is going to be considerable scope for fresh investment and expansion. Over and above further investment in existing operations, United is looking actively for fresh opportunities in publishing, printing and information/communication systems, both here and in the United States.

Pre-tax profits for 1981 are forecast at £4m against £4.5m the previous year and more than £8m in 1978. That will leave a maintained dividend (offering a yield of over 10% per cent) barely covered. But the expectation must be for a good profit recovery in 1982 as advertising recovers and the new cash earns a return.

### Burmah/Croda

#### Setting out the strategy

Burmah has put a reasonably strong strategic case to its shareholders for the proposed £79m takeover of specialty chemicals group Croda. Essentially it is that the group does not have the trading base from which to grow as an integrated oil company — even if that were possible in a world where there is only limited control over crude oil supplies — and that to avoid becoming an ill-defined conglomerate it has decided to concentrate on a few core businesses.

The one area it has identified as ripe for growth over the next 20 years is specialty chemicals, although there are contrary views within the chemical industry about its potential. In lighting on Croda, which lost its distinction in the early 1970s, Burmah is claiming that its prospects are much rosier than if it struggled alone against given Croda's marketing strengths through the Castrol organization.

To show it means business about its positive strategy, Burmah is putting the automotive components division Quinton Haxell up for sale. Inevitably there will be a lot of hot air over the next few weeks, but at the end of the day price will determine the outcome. The 70p a share Burmah is offering is below asset value and looks cheap if Croda makes £15m or so in 1982.

But assets are only worth what they can earn, and Croda — through a mixture of bad luck and weak management — has not been making them that in recent years. Shareholders will have to decide whether Croda will respond to treatment rather quicker in the Burmah fold. If the past is any guide, it probably will. Given Burmah's commitment to make this area of its business buzz. But it should be possible for the Croda board to squeeze a little more out of Burmah, even though it is conscious of over-paying for past acquisitions.

Paul Maidment and John Mellraith

## Gentleman of quality who got the measure of Lord Grade

Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Group finally bid last night for Lord Grade's Associated Communications Corporation. Uncertainty and last minute hold ups had led to confusion during the day.

This is the kind of drama which has punctuated the long career of the ACC chief. Mr Holmes a Court's style is very different.

While Lord Grade fits everyone's idea of the show business mogul — from the poor immigrant Jewish background to the ever-present cigar — Mr Robert Holmes a Court is anything but the popular image of an Australian tycoon.

Quiet-spoken, tall and elegant, the South African-born but now Perth-based Mr Holmes a Court carries himself as a gentleman of quality, as perhaps befits a scion of the barons Heytesbury. Even his curious (and dialled) southerner, "The Profitable Loser", acquired from his knack of selling off strategic stakes in takeover battles he started, has about it the ring of patrician understatement.

His presence is assured and authoritative, both in private and in public, a skill honed from his days as a member of the University of Western Australia's law school debating team, he arrived in Australia to read law aged 24 after studying agriculture in New Zealand.

On the surface then Lord Grade and Mr Holmes a Court seem very different animals. But, in fact, they have many similarities. Mr Holmes a Court, now in his mid-forties and reputedly one of the richest men in Australia, has all the toughness, entrepreneurial flair and workaholic tendencies of Lord Grade. It is not the penchant for showmanship — he smokes the slender Havana cigars. Many say he has the shrewd business brain of the two. Lord Grade has described him as "like lightning".

Like Lord Grade's, Mr Holmes a Court's business empire, the Bell Group, is very much his own creation. He pays painstaking attention to detail and until recently checked every item of expenditure personally, including his fellow directors' expense accounts. The origins of the Bell Group date back a decade.

After university, he had set up a law practice with a fellow student and friend, Mr Nicholas Hasluck, whose father Sir Paul, was later to be Governor-General of Australia.

By his own account, Mr Holmes a Court drifted into the commerce when in 1970 the law practice went to wind up a well-known but near bankrupt textile group, Western Australian Worsted and Woollen Mills.

Instead, he bought it for £43,000 and then persuaded the state government to write off 80 per cent of a £500,000 (£280,000) loan in return for a matching investment. The mills are now among Australia's leading textile groups.

With Mr Holmes a Court at the helm, the company embarked on an expansion and

diversification programme into mineral resources and property to boost its assets base. In 1973, it bought Bell Brothers Holdings, a construction and transport company which had run into trouble following the collapse of the Western Australian property boom. The company had the back of a mineral resources boom.

By 1976, the textile group held 94.6 per cent of Bell Brothers Holdings and Mr Holmes a Court remained the whole. The Bell Group, making it his main vehicle. He is chairman of the group, of which, with his family company Heytesbury Securities, he controls more than half.

Three years later, the group started buying a number of strategic stakes in companies it did not end up taking over, but from which it derived useful profits. The first of these was the Australia

airline, Ansett Transport Industries, another, the pastoral house, Elder, Smith, Goldsbrough Mort. In Britain, his stories have included this newspaper and Rolls Royce Motors.

Such activity is estimated to have given Mr Holmes a Court a profit of £450m in recent years. In 1980, the group's net profits of £55.1m were augmented by £10.9m in extraordinary capital gains, and in 1981 profits of £66.6m were similarly augmented by £16.6m.

Brokers say that Mr Holmes a Court has made very effective use of loss-making subsidiaries to take full advantage of tax benefits allowed under Australian law.

Mr Holmes a Court says he has never started a takeover he did not intend to see through, but there always comes a point beyond which he thinks the shares are not worth the asking price and he is then prepared to sell to somebody who does.

His bullishness for British shares — he also has a 4.5 per cent stake in Vickers and a 5 per cent holding in Rugby Football Club — comes from a belief that they are underpriced because investors have overreacted to the state of the British economy. Less than two years ago, he was quoted as saying that he recognized the difficulties caused by British legislation restricting foreigners' from controlling broadcasting stations.

It is a criticism of Mr Holmes a Court that he does not have experience of running a large organisation, such as ACC. The trading side of the Bell Group is relatively small for a company with international aspirations.

His response is that his role is that of the entrepreneur, the man whose talent is to bring together the ingredients of an operation. Where he needs to have someone to run something, he buys in the skills, as he did with Larry Lamb to look after his Western Australia-based media interests.

While his skill is to spot the buying opportunities that others have missed, Mr Holmes a Court has always been proud of the investment lines of credit he maintains, supplemented by strong reserves within his companies.

The Bell Group's shareholders' funds have been increased to £454m from £374m three years ago through asset realisations, redeemable preference capital of £14m, a £55m share issue and retained profits of £57m.

In addition to the £55m of



Robert Holmes a Court — shrewder than his adversary

areas which Mr Holmes a Court underlined for the Bell Group's growth in his chairman's review with the last annual report. The others were transport and mining.

He also believes in integrating print and electronic media within a single group under one top management and with specialist journalists dividing their time between newspapers, radio and television. This may give some clue to his future intentions in this field in Britain, given his reported interest in the Express group of newspapers and known past interest in The Times group, although he recognizes the difficulties caused by British legislation restricting foreigners' from controlling broadcasting stations.

It is a criticism of Mr Holmes a Court that he does

**His bullishness for British shares comes from a belief that they are underpriced because investors have overreacted to the state of the economy**

not have experience of running a large organisation, such as ACC. The trading side of the Bell Group is relatively small for a company with international aspirations.

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In addition to the £55m of

## The empires they built

Associated Communications Corporation

<b>FLM, TELEVISION AND VIDEO PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION</b> ITC Entertainment Ltd ITC Films ITC International Ltd ITC Film Productions Ltd ITC Film Productions Ltd ITC Entertainment Ltd ITC Film Inc ITC Film Productions Ltd ITC Film Inc ITC Film Productions Ltd	<b>MUSIC PUBLISHING</b> ATV Music Publishing Co Ltd ATV Music Corporation Clogs Music BV Music Today SA <b>LEISURE</b> ACC Leisure Inc Janssens Travel Ltd Airport Park Hotel NV <b>CREMAS</b> The Classic Cinema Ltd <b>THEATRES</b> Shell Moles Theatre Ltd <b>TREASURY</b> ACC Investments Ltd Associated Communications Finance AG ACC Leasing Ltd	<b>TELEVISION</b> Central Independent Television (CITV) <b>RECORDS AND AUDIO TAPES</b> Precision Records and Tapes Ltd <b>INSURANCE</b> Brynmor Insurance Co Ltd Brynmor Insurance Co Ltd ACC Insurance Services Ltd The Concord Reinsurance Co Ltd <b>MERCHANDISING</b> ATV Licensing Ltd <b>PRINTING</b> Brynmor Printing Co Ltd
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Bell Group

The pivot of the Bell Group is the Bell Group Ltd, the holding company. Its main subsidiary is the 98.3 per cent owned Bell Brothers Holdings. In the transport division, there are a number of wholly-owned subsidiaries covering quarrying, plant hire, earth moving, tyre distribution and freight forwarding.

Separate wholly-owned subsidiaries are the textile interests now called Albany Woollen Mills, and a metal pipe manufacturer. The group also owns 79.4 per cent of an electric motor and pump manufacturer, Westgate Industries, and 45.5 per cent of a marine equipment and hotels group, J. N. Taylor Holdings. In addition, the group has a 60.73 per cent interest in Western Australian Onshore Oil.

As well as its interests in ACC, the Bell Group has a 26.3 per cent holding in the Perth TV Enterprises, which has 30 per cent of Western newspapers. The Bell Group has a direct 32.2 per cent stake in Western Mail.

## Business Diary: Parcel boast ● A bridge too far

What should have been a package of pure delight for rail users from Len Dumelow has arrived not only late but somewhat sorry looking.

Dumelow, the secretary of the Central Transport Committee, a British Rail users' watchdog, has pulled off something of a coup. But not only is the announcement of the CTRC's victory — that of persuading British Rail to drop owner's risk conditions for the Rail Express Parcels service from January 1 — two weeks late in coming but of course yesterday there were no trains to carry parcels at BR's — or anybody else's — risk.

Now, to cap it all, neither Dumelow or fellow colleagues of the committee's secretariat were able to reach

their London office because of the strike.

Dumelow was somewhere between Birmingham and his home in Rugby yesterday, but Business Diary found Arty Brown, his assistant secretary, at home in Brighton.

Brown was able to explain why the announcement was delayed from January 1. It says the changes had taken about two to three years to ring about after complaints from package senders throughout the country.

Brown estimates that about 62 million parcels carried by this BR service — much the same as five years ago. BR pulled out last year from its collection service. Parcels are now only taken from station to station, so Brown thinks this might reduce the number of this year even had there been no strike.

### Transportation

The singer and writer George Melly popularized the adjective "transportation" to describe scruffs like me who live in London but on the wrong, i.e. south, side of the Thames.

Judith Sheward (right) who lives in more public north side, has a particular north-south controversy in the current edition of her *London Newsletter* for foreign executives looking for homes in or near the capital.

Of Cumberwell, Clapham, Wandsworth and Greenwich, she says: "There are beautifully modernised houses which just don't seem to find expatriate renters, despite the fact that many of their neighbours would be of the same age and background, many of them younger professionals."

Mrs Sheward is a director of International Relocation, which helps to house and settle expatriate families, many of them Americans. She tells me that recession or not, Americans will still not tackle inner south London, but will settle for smaller space somewhere smarter. It seems that once they leave the Melting Pot, Americans want houses either in a nice, white cube — like the one they left back home, (£1,500 a month) or else in Hollywood London, those nice squares in Chelsea and Knightsbridge (£2,500 up).

"Brixton has had very bad publicity, so many tend to equate anything from Wimbledon Common to Croydon as bad news," she tells me. Even Putney can draw the response: "It's too far and we've seen some black faces."

Mrs Sheward went on: "I once got an American executive who said to me 'Please, we'd like to know if everybody else in this street will be earning £100,000 a year.' " "While you might be able to make such assumptions in nice, suburban areas in



Home and why: executive rehouser Judith Sheward at her own front door in London

America, it's extremely difficult in London to walk down any street and say that, even if you see the handsome silk curtains and the Volvos outside."

Mrs Sheward's guidelines to wealth used to be "blinds in the windows, yellow front and brass knockers," but, she adds, "Everybody can get those from Habitat now."

For the record, her curtains are imitation silk, the door is burnt orange, the knocker is brass and paint — and there's an Escort outside.

### Devils to pay

I wonder if Lucas Industries is insured against low level strafing by the RAF's Red Devils? The decision to withdraw sponsorship must have been a difficult one for Lucas chairman Godfrey Messervy, himself a former member of the Parachute Regiment, but was apparently taken because the board felt continued sponsorship was not justified.

Japanese motor firms — in particular are believed to be eager to step in. Ironically it was sponsorship by a foreign motor group, Mercedes-Benz of Germany which led to Lucas' initial involvement five years ago. Messervy was so upset at their arrival at displays in Mercedes vehicles that he persuaded fellow directors to bid for the sponsorship contract.

At the Red Devils' Alder shot HQ last night a team member said: "We need between £25,000 and £35,000 a year to see us through."

Ralph Quartano, chief executive of the Post Office pension fund presently taking legal action to stop a £750,000 gold handshake package to Jack Gil, relaxed this week with a night out at Greenwich Theatre — watching Sherdan's The School for Scandal.

Ross Davies



"Slip on the ice or golden handshake?"

## SGB GROUP

### REDUCED GROUP PROFIT IN SPITE OF IMPROVEMENTS OVERSEAS

Final dividend increased

Preliminary Announcement

Year ended 28th September 1981

	1981	1980
Group Turnover	£'000	£'000
Group Profit before Tax	138,235	139,549
Group Profit after Tax and Minorities	12,575	16,283
Shareholders' Funds	6,449	11,617
Earnings per Share	15.7p	28.6p
Current Cost Profit before Tax	8,901	12,187
Current Cost Profit attributable to Shareholders	2,891	7,595
Current Cost Earnings per Share	7.0p	18.7p

In the UK, the recession has resulted in a substantial drop in profitability, all the main UK groups being affected. Overseas, our operations, particularly in Africa the Middle East Australia and direct exports, showed much improved results.

Total group borrowings have been reduced by some £7 million during the year.

Dividend. At the annual general meeting to be held on 9th March, 1982, a final dividend of 3.3p per share will be recommended, resulting in a total dividend of 5.6p for the year.

The full Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on Monday, 8th February, 1982.

SGB Group Limited,  
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TD





§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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## Football

### Champions paired with FA Cup holders

The League champions, Aston Villa, could face the FA Cup winners Tottenham Hotspur in the two-legged League Cup semi-finals. But with the FA Cup holders, Tottenham, drawn against the second round, Villa will meet Spurs if the clubs win their respective home quarter-finals against West Bromwich Albion and Nottingham Forest. The other semi-final could draw together the two other English teams who won honours last season.

The European champions and League Cup holders, Liverpool, will clash with the United Cup winners Ipswich Town, if both beat second round opposition. Liverpool must survive a replay at Barnsley and Ipswich must overcome those famed cup holders.

Six of the eight teams involved in yesterday's draw are also in the FA Cup, and if many cup games are played, there could be problems. Next week the clubs will try to settle the quarter-final fixtures and then play their FA Cup fourth-round games on Saturday.

There could be rearranged games or replays in both competitions the following week before, in theory, the League Cup semi-final first legs are played on Wednesday. Liverpool and Tottenham are drawn to play on Wednesday, while Ipswich and Barnsley are drawn to play on Thursday.

The League Cup quarter-final between Villa and Spurs, rearranged for Monday, may have to be postponed again. Villa's secretary, Steve Stride, who arranged a meeting with senior police officers yesterday, said afterwards: "They agreed that it would be a public safety hazard to stage a match at Villa Park with the surrounding streets and pavements in such a state."

He added that a drastic thing is the only hope of the match going ahead.

## No action likely over complaints about England seeding

From Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent  
Madrid, Jan 14

A black cloud, as heavy as those which hang above Madrid, has loomed over the World Cup. A war that has been waged between two presidents for four years in the power corridors of Spanish politics could now spill out in front of the eyes of the world.

The two officers concerned are the president of the World Cup organizing committee, and Pablo Portu, the president of the Spanish Football Federation. Their names are not familiar, but their personalities and philosophies are different. Their current disagreement centres around the seeding of the teams to take place here on Saturday evening.

Briefly, the background. Mr Portu originally offered the job of organizing the World Cup to Mr Portu in 1977. He turned it down, claiming that his duties as a director of Real Madrid, the vice-president of the Spanish basketball federation, and a member of the Spanish Olympic committee were as well as his own sports committee, were too time consuming.

But a year later, after the death of Santiago Bernabéu, the club which gave him his job, Mr Portu changed his mind. He then became known as the king of the world and grandly declared that he owed allegiance only to the ruling monarch.

Mr Portu, perhaps feeling undermined and overshadowed, was displeased, and battle began. It was an internal dispute until last year when, in a bid to stage a match at Villa Park with the surrounding streets and pavements in such a state, Mr Portu, understandably, denied that that was the case, and emphasized that only the top

six sides (Spain, Argentina, West Germany, Brazil, Italy and England) were being given preferential treatment. Yet Jose Havelange, the president of FIFA, released a list of four seeded groups of six countries during the draw for the European championships in Paris last Friday.

Without such information, Belgium and France would not have been able to lodge an objection to England's high ranking. The case is to be heard later tonight, but the feeling here is that the committee will do no more than formally accept the complaint and that no action will be taken.

If Mr Havelange's list of seedings, which should be confirmed tomorrow, is to be believed, then form no longer carries much, if any, weight, than the interests of politics and commerce. But Harry Cavan, the president of the Northern Ireland Football Association, said this morning: "If it is the case, it is a disaster. We would want to meet Mr Portu in the first round."

Mr Portu, as much as admitted the change in emphasis when he stated: "This World Cup is all about business and advertising, not football."

It was a sad comment that provided an immediate and not unexpected response from Mr Portu. "It is important to talk about football, not business," he replied.

Mr Portu, aged 55, added that he wanted the tournament to be discreet and efficient, and that he hoped to make it the best in the history of the World Cup.

He is equally pessimistic about his own country's chances. "We will win the World Cup," he said. "But, of course, that isn't Spain. We hope to finish somewhere in the middle of the final. Somewhere in the final 12. We'll get through the first round, and then go out in a dignified manner, in the second."

## Rugby Union



Hesford: 99 per cent certain of playing tomorrow.

## Hibs' greenery helps English and Scots

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent

After several days of doubt about the fitness of Bob Hesford, the Glasgow Warriors' scrum-half, it is now 99 per cent certain that he will play in tomorrow's Calcutta Cup match against Scotland.

Mr Hesford, who has been in a long-term battle with a knee injury, was seen yesterday in a full training session at the club's headquarters in Glasgow.

It appears that the North Berwick Club, which has all set to play against the Warriors, with a ground said to be in better condition than the one at the Glasgow Warriors' ground, will also be in need of a tonic, could meet Harrow in a rare clash.

Mr Hesford, who has shown consistently good form in recent years, has been a key player for the Warriors.

## Golf

### Ozaki makes a name for himself

From John Ballantine  
Palm Springs, Jan 14

Ozaki of Japan struck eight birdies in a remarkable performance to win the 39th annual tournament at the 1982 US Open at Balmoral, New Jersey.

In the rather confusing format, 129 professionals play Indian Wells, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta and Eldorado with three different winners each day, the leading 70 returning to Indian Wells for a final round on Sunday.

Mr Ozaki, 28, of Tokyo, who made his first appearance in the American circuit, promptly won the first round, the 42-year-old Japanese player on the circuit.

not resident, is Isao Aoki, 39, popular winner of the 1981 tournament. Aoki came to the United States to win the 1981 tournament when he was runner-up to Jack Nicklaus in the 1980 US Open at Balmoral, New Jersey.

In the rather confusing format, 129 professionals play Indian Wells, Bermuda Dunes, La Quinta and Eldorado with three different winners each day, the leading 70 returning to Indian Wells for a final round on Sunday.

Mr Ozaki, 28, of Tokyo, who made his first appearance in the American circuit, promptly won the first round, the 42-year-old Japanese player on the circuit.

411-yard tenth where a one foot shot is a fire on the green. The birdie was a stroke away from being a hole-in-one. Aoki, who had been in the lead since the first round, was hit by a birdie on the 10th hole to drop into a tie with Aoki. Aoki, who had been in the lead since the first round, was hit by a birdie on the 10th hole to drop into a tie with Aoki.

## Top-heavy schools' draw

By Peter Ryde

The draw for the Halford Hewitt Cup, competed for between teams of Old Boys of public schools, shows a preponderance of weight in the top half, although last year's winners, Charterhouse, are both in the lower half.

Those who are used to hard, first-round matches having twice in the last three years drawn Watson's, meet Rugby, who are hungry for another Cup victory.

made this year with the aid of two piddling bowls in the last round of a London club, has always been absolutely straight. If the question of seeding has ever been raised in past years, it has been quickly dropped.

Luck of the draw is an important element in the tournament, and in any case so many different schools have reached the finals in the past decade, that it would be a bold committee that dared to draw up a list of seeds.

## McNulty takes lead with another 67

Johannesburg, Jan 14.—A second round of 67 took McNulty into the lead in the South African PGA tournament here today. It was the same score as the one he returned yesterday, and puts him two strokes clear of his fellow South African, Denis Watson, the first-round leader, and the Irishman, David Feherty, both of whom are on 138.

SECOND ROUND LEADERS (SA unless stated): 1. McNulty 67, 2. Watson 67, 3. Feherty 67, 4. Watson 67, 5. Feherty 67, 6. Watson 67, 7. Feherty 67, 8. Watson 67, 9. Feherty 67, 10. Watson 67, 11. Feherty 67, 12. Watson 67, 13. Feherty 67, 14. Watson 67, 15. Feherty 67, 16. Watson 67, 17. Feherty 67, 18. Watson 67, 19. Feherty 67, 20. Watson 67, 21. Feherty 67, 22. Watson 67, 23. Feherty 67, 24. Watson 67, 25. Feherty 67, 26. Watson 67, 27. Feherty 67, 28. Watson 67, 29. Feherty 67, 30. Watson 67, 31. Feherty 67, 32. Watson 67, 33. Feherty 67, 34. Watson 67, 35. Feherty 67, 36. Watson 67, 37. Feherty 67, 38. Watson 67, 39. Feherty 67, 40. Watson 67, 41. Feherty 67, 42. Watson 67, 43. Feherty 67, 44. Watson 67, 45. Feherty 67, 46. Watson 67, 47. Feherty 67, 48. Watson 67, 49. Feherty 67, 50. Watson 67, 51. Feherty 67, 52. Watson 67, 53. Feherty 67, 54. Watson 67, 55. Feherty 67, 56. Watson 67, 57. Feherty 67, 58. Watson 67, 59. Feherty 67, 60. Watson 67, 61. Feherty 67, 62. Watson 67, 63. 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